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No. 58

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 14, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COHEN) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Reverend Joseph T. Holcomb, Director of Pilgrimages, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

All powerful and merciful God, we praise You and give You thanks for all Your gracious gifts, most especially the gift of Your infinite love. It is Your gift of love that inspires and drives us to lives of committed service, lives that are lived in truth, in justice and for the good of all people.

May we always avail ourselves to Your love so that we may better serve those we represent in this the United States House of Representatives.

May our deliberations, discussions and actions always reflect the love you have bestowed upon us that we might bring about understanding, tolerance, and harmony in our great Nation and peace for the entire world. We pray this in Your holy name.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### CRIME—VICTIMS—JUSTICE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the suffering of a quiet group of remarkable individuals is often overlooked by our culture. Victims of crime sometimes spend the rest of their lives trying to cope with being someone else's prey.

These people are a cross section of America and include all races, ages, religions, and they come from all economic backgrounds. You see, violent crime plays no favorites and does not discriminate.

We, as neighbors, should be aware of and concerned about these victims. That is why we honor and remember them during this National Crime Victims Rights Week. Since 1981, each year in April, communities throughout these vast great plains have celebrated National Crime Victims Rights Week to promote victims' rights and to recognize victims, as well as those who advocate on their behalf.

We can do victims justice by raising awareness of their plight and demanding that justice prevail in their lives, many of whom spend quiet lives of desperation. They are the forgotten participants in the judicial system, and we will forget them no more.

And that's just the way it is.

### NO RESULTS FROM EMPTY PROMISES OF MAJORITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, when the majority party was campaigning to take control of this House, they promised a lot of change, and they made a lot of promises about what they were going to do about gas prices and energy costs and everything else in this country.

However, what has that promised change brought us? It has brought us a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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43 percent increase in gasoline prices. The price of groceries is going up rapidly.

We have seen no results from these empty promises. This is a do-nothing Congress. They accused the Republicans of being a do-nothing Congress.

This is a do-something Congress involved with a do-nothing because what they have done has been detrimental to our country. They have caused the price of gas to go up 43 percent, the price of groceries to go up.

We need a real energy policy, not a lot of empty promises. I call on the majority to let us see some results from those empty promises.

### AMERICA IS NOT AS SECURE TODAY

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is not as secure today as it was just several weeks ago.

The leadership in the House has not allowed the Protect America Act to come to the floor, and, thus, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has expired.

We cannot monitor what Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan or Pakistan are talking about or his phone calls to Iran or any other place in this world. FISA only monitors phone calls from one foreign entity to another.

The leadership seems more bent on protecting lawsuits than they are in protecting America. I call upon the leadership to let us vote on the Protect America Act so that we can make America secure again.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 14, 2008, at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House, S. 793.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
Clerk of the House.

### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that I will relinquish my seat on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce effective 5:00 p.m. EST, April 9, 2008.

It has been my honor to serve for the past twelve years as a member of the Committee and for the past 2 years as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. I consider it a singular privilege to have worked with Chairman John Dingell, a true lion of the Congress, and on the important work of the Committee.

While I have fully complied with both the letter and spirit of the ethics rules as well as engaged in appropriate recusals, I am concerned that this issue is a distraction from the critical work of the Committee on climate change, energy independence and environmental protection. Unfortunately, it appears that this issue has become fodder for cynical partisan attacks.

I would also like to thank you for all of the support you have given me throughout my career.

Sincerely,

ALBERT R. WYNN,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL OBJECTORS FOR PRIVATE CALENDAR FOR 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the majority and minority leaderships, the Chair announces that the official objectors for the Private Calendar for the 110th Congress are as follows:

For the majority:  
Mr. BOUCHER, Virginia  
Mr. SCHIFF, California  
Mr. GRIJALVA, Arizona  
For the minority:  
Mr. KING, Iowa  
Mr. FORBES, Virginia  
Mr. SMITH, Texas

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 886) expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 886

Whereas on Sunday, December 9, 2007, a man entered the New Life Church property with the intent to cause harm to members and guests of the church;

Whereas the attacker shot 5 bystanders at the New Life Church, killing 2 of them and injuring 3 others;

Whereas the shooting resulted in the tragic loss of Stephanie Works, 18, and Rachel Works, 16, who lost their lives from wounds sustained from shots fired by the attacker;

Whereas the attacker wounded David Works, who was still hospitalized days after the shootings, Judy Purcell, and Larry Bourbonnais;

Whereas Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, heroically rushed into harm's way and used her own gun to stop the shooter, thereby saving the lives of several other bystanders;

Whereas the quick response of private security, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs SWAT Team, Federal authorities, and medical professionals limited the danger to the church and local community;

Whereas this event occurred only hours after another tragic and fatal shooting, which occurred at the Youth With A Mission facility, located in Arvada, Colorado;

Whereas the shooting at Youth With A Mission resulted in the death of Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24;

Whereas the attacker seriously wounded Dan Griebenow and Charlie Blanch; and

Whereas local first responders in the City of Arvada and in Jefferson County, Colorado, responded quickly and professionally, thereby saving wounded individuals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) offers its heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to Jeanne Assam, city and county officials, as well as the police, fire, sheriff, Federal authorities, and emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 886, as amended, which expresses sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado.

House Resolution 886 was introduced by Representative DOUG LAMBORN from the State of Colorado on December 18,

2007, and has the support and cosponsorship of over 50 Members of Congress.

The measure was considered by the Oversight panel on March 13, 2008, and was passed by voice vote after having been amended for technical purposes.

It was only a few short months ago when our country was riveted by the violent rampage of one individual that left five people seriously wounded while killing four others. It was a solemn Sunday in December, December 9, to be exact, when the lives of Judy Purcell, Larry Bourbannais, Tiffany Johnson, Philip Crouse, Dan Griebenow, Charlie Blanch and Stephanie, David, and Rachel Works would be forever changed by a series of tragic events that gripped central Colorado but touched our entire country.

Many of the persons impacted by the shooting rampage of a disturbed man were young people who had already chosen honorable and noble paths of service and faith. In remembering that dreadful day, I must also mention the heroic actions of Jeanne Assam, a volunteer security guard, whose swift response led to the wounding and killing of the assailant. We thank her for her dutiful service that helped prevent an already disastrous event from escalating further.

Passage of this measure will allow our body an opportunity to officially express our heartfelt condolences, prayers and sympathies to the families and victims of the tragic acts of violence that took place in Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado, last year.

Therefore I urge adoption of House Resolution 886, as amended, and reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of this resolution recognizing the tragedy that befell the communities of Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution seeks to take a moment to reflect on the impact one man's senseless acts of violence can have on a community, a State and a Nation. On an early Sunday morning, a man entered the New Life Church and proceeded to open fire. Tragically, the lives of Tiffany Johnson and Philip Crouse were taken. They were both staff members of the Youth With A Mission Center, which educates individuals to be evangelical missionaries overseas. Two other staff members were seriously injured as well, Dan Griebenow and Charlie Blanch.

This a place of peace where dedicated young men and women are educated to be Christian missionaries. What happened there on that cold Sunday morning was a true travesty for those victims and the community that surrounds them.

Later that afternoon at approximately 1 p.m., the same individual who opened fire at the Youth With A Mission facility entered the grounds of the

New Life Christian Church and fatally shot two teenagers, Stephanie and Rachel Works. The shooter also shot and seriously injured their father, David Works, in the parking lot before he proceeded into the church. Two others, Judy Purcell and Larry Bourbannais, were also injured that day. Fortunately for the communities of Colorado Springs and Arvada, Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, performed heroically that afternoon and engaged the shooter when he entered the church's east entrance.

Jeanne Assam was a former Minneapolis police officer and was licensed to carry a firearm. She used her education and performed admirably to protect not only those inside the church, but those in the surrounding area as well. She was able to slow the gunman down, which ultimately led to the gunman taking his own life.

One shudders to think of the terror that could have ensued had the shooter been able to continue unabated. The shooter was later identified as 24-year-old Matthew Murray. There is only one word that can describe the acts of Jeanne Assam on that day—heroic.

The quick response by the security team at New Life Christian Church, who quickly moved to step up security after hearing the news of the initial shooting in Arvada also deserves praise. In addition, we must take a moment to thank the first responders on that day. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs SWAT team, Federal authorities, and medical professionals all played a role in quelling what could have been an even larger massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important remembrance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and also the gentlewoman for her kind remarks concerning this day of tragedy in Colorado. We have had a couple of those, Columbine, 9 years ago this week, as well as this tragedy that occurred on December 9.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and regret that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence that occurred on December 9 at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs and on the Faith Bible Chapel campus in Arvada, Colorado, with this resolution.

The senseless acts of violence partially took place in my district at the Youth With A Mission, YWAM, in the heart of Jefferson County in a community still reeling from the tragic events of Columbine several years ago.

The Faith Bible Chapel campus is about a block from where my father-in-law lives. It is a place I drive by almost

every weekend when I am home. And it is a place in the late hours of December 8 and the early hours of December 9, a reverse 911 call had to go out to the entire neighborhood to advise them of the killings that had gone on so nearby.

All four young men and women lost their lives before the psychotic young gunman turned the gun on himself. This resolution seeks to honor the memory of these individuals: Tiffany Johnson, who was 26 years old; Philip Crouse, 24; Stephanie Works and Rachel Works who I believe were nieces of a friend of mine, John Works, who was a candidate several years ago for the 7th Congressional District of Colorado, which is the seat that I now hold.

This bill also seeks to recognize the survivors and the families victimized, and in particular, Dan Griebenow, Charlie Blanch, David Works, Judy Purcell, and Larry Bourbannais who were wounded during this senseless day of killing.

It is important to note that this resolution commends the heroism of the local first responders and law enforcement officials in the city of Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado Springs, and El Paso County who responded quickly and professionally.

Especially, Jeanne Assam, a volunteer private security guard, who courageously rushed into harm's way and used her own gun to stop the shooter, thereby saving the lives of several other bystanders.

We will never know what was going through the mind of Matthew Murray, the young man who killed these people and wounded several more. We don't know what possessed his mind to take these senseless acts, but we do know that the people who were killed here in this particular incident and the people who were wounded will always stay in our memory and will be honored by this resolution.

Our Nation can never adequately come to grips with senseless tragedies like these. Whether it is some kind of care for the perpetrator in this instance from his psychosis, or whether it is additional protections that we might give to our churches and our schools, there are many things that we can do, but it is just a shame that sometimes, we can't understand the demons that possess people and cause them to come up with acts of psychotic violence like we have seen here.

It is my hope that this bill sends a message to the victims of these tragic events that they will continue to remain in the thoughts of our Nation, and they will never be forgotten for the events that occurred on December 9. This bill represents one small step in the process of healing for our communities affected by this tragedy.

In closing, I wish to thank each of my colleagues in the Colorado delegation, and especially Representative DOUG LAMBORN, who represents the city of Colorado Springs. I want to thank each of the 51 co-sponsors who join me today in expressing sympathy

to the victims and families of the heartbreaking acts of violence in Colorado Springs and Arvada, Colorado, with this resolution, H. Res. 886. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 886.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate those who lost their lives in tragic act violence last year in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado. I truly appreciate the support and friendship from the Colorado delegation in supporting this resolution and offering our most sincere condolences to the victims and their families.

On December 9, 2007, a young man targeted two Christian organizations that resulted in the death of four young people, in addition to the shooter. Our hearts go out to the family of Stephanie Works, 18, and Rachel Works, 16, whose lives were tragically ended while at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs. Further loss of life was prevented by the heroic acts of Jeanne Assam, an armed volunteer security guard, whose heroic actions stopped the shooter from inflicting more devastation. Hours earlier another fatal shooting occurred at a Youth with a Mission Facility in Arvada, Colorado that resulted in the tragic loss of Tiffany Johnson, 26, and Philip Crouse, 24.

The personal devastation inflicted on the families of these victims is unimaginable and has impacted our entire community. We offer this resolution to honor the memory of those who were lost, offer our condolences to the affected families, and recognize the courageous actions of Jeanne Assam in preventing this tragedy from harming more Coloradans. Our hearts go out to the families who still daily suffer from the atrocious attacks and we humbly offer our sympathy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 886, "Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Arvada, Colorado."

This important legislation will honor and memorialize those who were affected by the tragic events in Colorado Springs and Arvada. On that fateful day, a gunman took the lives of five people and wounded 5 more, subsequently taking his own life.

The shootings at New Life Church in Colorado Springs and the Youth With a Mission Center in Arvada on December 9, 2007, remind us once again that the wrath of violence can easily destroy the lives of a congregation gathered in a sanctified establishment. As we reflect on the lives that were spared, we duly note the actions of Jeanne Assam. Jeanne Assam, a former police officer and New Life Church member and security guard, is credited with halting the gunman's spree by shooting him. Though her gunfire did not kill the perpetrator, her act of courage and conviction allowed her to halt the gunman's spree, subsequently preventing the death of more people.

The carnage at the Colorado tragedy commands that we here in this body take a stand against senseless acts of violence whether here in our own country or elsewhere around the world. It is long past time for our national community to declare that injuries inflicted on any member of the community by another simply based on hate or hatred of differences pose a threat to the peace and security of the entire community. For that reason alone, such conduct must be condemned and punished

severely, if not prevented altogether. I hope that the incident in Colorado does not reflect a larger problem within our society; however, my optimism is guarded with the reality of an escalating amount of gun violence in schools, malls, and churches.

Neither the mind nor the heart can contemplate a cause that could lead a human being to inflict such injury and destruction on fellow human beings. We can never completely understand why these things happen; however, we must persevere through the melancholy. The loss of those lives and innocence is a tragedy which all Americans mourn. In the face of such overwhelming grief, I hope the families and friends of those affected can take comfort in the certain knowledge that unearned suffering is redemptive. My deepest sympathies are with the victims, their families, and everyone who is affected by this tragic situation. This devastation reaffirms why we, as public officials, must take steps to ensure that the United States is a safer environment where acts of violence based on hate are not tolerated. We cannot sufficiently articulate the feelings of sorrow that are universally felt. I extend my prayers and support to the bereaved families during this time of mourning.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in so doing, showing respect for the lives that were lost, sacrificed, and spared.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### NATIONAL GLANZMANN'S THROMBASTHENIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res 994) expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 994

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia affects men, women, and children of all ages;

Whereas this disorder is very distressing to those who have it, causing great discomfort and severe emotional stress;

Whereas children with Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia are unable to participate in many normal childhood activities including most sports and are often subject to social discomfort because of their disorder;

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia includes a wide range of symptoms including life-threatening, uncontrollable bleeding and severe bruising;

Whereas Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia is frequently misdiagnosed or undiagnosed by medical professionals;

Whereas currently there is no cure for Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia;

Whereas it is essential to educate the public on the symptoms, treatments, and constant efforts to cure Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia to insure early diagnosis and treatment of the condition;

Whereas Helen P. Smith established the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation in Augusta, Georgia, in 2001;

Whereas Helen P. Smith and the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation have worked tirelessly to promote awareness of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia and help fund research on the disorder; and

Whereas Congress should determine an appropriate day to designate as National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand for the consideration of H. Res. 994, as amended, which expresses support for the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

H. Res. 994 was introduced by Representative PAUL BROUN of the fine State of Georgia on February 25, 2008, and has the support and cosponsorship of 57 Members of Congress. The measure was considered by the Oversight panel on March 13, 2008, and was passed by voice vote at that time after being amended for technical purposes.

Mr. Speaker, while many people may not be aware of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, which is an extremely rare disorder of the blood where the platelets lack glycoprotein, a key element for blood to clot, therefore significantly prolonging bleeding time. While on average there are only 200 cases of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia reported every year, the disease and finding a cure for it still requires our attention, resources and support.

March 1, 2008, marked the inaugural commemoration of the National

Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. The day was celebrated with events, receptions and our colleagues in the Senate Chamber passed an identical resolution honoring and recognizing the importance of National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day.

I think it is important that we in this body help to expand research awareness of Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, which is why I rise in support of H. Res. 994. Passage of this measure will help to raise the profile and the general public's understanding of this illness and the corresponding National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. I urge passage of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution urging the designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. Discovered in Switzerland in 1918, Glanzmann's thrombasthenia, otherwise known as GT, is a rare and serious blood disorder that affects men, women, and children of all ages across the globe. The disease affects the ability of blood platelets to form, or clot, around the site of a broken blood vessel due to a deficiency of a specific protein on the surface of the platelet. Since the blood is unable to clot normally, those who suffer from GT are faced with uncontrollable, potentially life-threatening blood loss and severe bruising.

A very rare and little known hereditary disease, GT has severe emotional and physical effects on those who suffer from it. Children with GT often find themselves socially isolated as they are unable to participate in normal childhood activities such as sports or physically active play.

There is no cure for this disease, and because it is so rare, there is little information on the symptoms and treatments. It is important that we support valuable organizations such as the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation, founded by Helen P. Smith in 2001, in their effort to educate the public, promote awareness, and fund research of this serious disease.

□ 1430

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution that seeks to raise the awareness of this serious, emotionally damaging and potentially life-threatening disease.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a beautiful young lady by the name of Julia Smith and her family came to my office. Julia lives in

Augusta, Georgia and is a constituent of mine.

This 9-year-old young lady, when she was first born, was covered with bruises. Her parents, of course, were, needless to say, very concerned and they asked the doctor about these bruises. The parents were told that this was just from a result of a difficult delivery.

A short time thereafter, Julia had a little scratch on her face that resulted in bleeding that covered her whole face and, of course, her mom was frantic. The blood tests were normal.

The family took Julia to the Medical College of Georgia, my alma mater. I'm a medical doctor, and so I'm proud of the Medical College of Georgia of doing the testing that was required to bring about the diagnosis of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia in Julia.

Her mom, Helen, was, of course, very distraught and so she started researching, trying to find out about this very rare disease. The more she searched, the more she realized that there's very little information anywhere. And she started meeting other families all around the country, whose family members also suffered from GT.

With the help of a small grant from a private individual, Helen Smith founded the Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Research Foundation. And what she's doing is trying to find, certainly, the cure of this disease, but also searching to try to find ways of informing people who have this disease about the disease and help to comfort them. And so it's a research foundation that is extremely needed to try to prevent the disease symptoms which are uncontrollable bleeding, as well as very painful bruising. It's a life-threatening disease.

But Ms. Smith talked to me about this disease. And as a physician, as a Member of Congress, I realized that we really need to bring this disease to the forefront so that she can have some help. She's seeking for recognition. She's seeking for private grants and private funding of her foundation which is very much needed. And hopefully, this young lady, Julia Smith, can live a long and fruitful life, and we can find a cure to this disease. In fact, the researchers say that there's a possibility of finding a cure within a matter of just the next few years.

But without bringing public attention to the disease, Ms. Smith's going to continue to struggle to try to get the recognition that she so richly deserves for this very rare blood disorder.

So that's what this bill is all about. It's to promote the awareness of Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia. March 1 has been chosen as the day to establish the National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day. This day was chosen to coincide with the date of the fundraiser for the research foundation.

I want to thank Natalie Stroud of my office and my staff for her excellent work on this resolution.

And I urge my colleagues to vote with me on passage of H. Res. 994.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 994, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would urge passage of this legislation, and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5517) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5517

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. TEXAS MILITARY VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I join Representative POE and his fellow colleagues from the Lone Star State of Texas in considering H.R. 5517, which renames the postal facility at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

As stated, the measure at hand was first introduced by Congressman TED POE on February 28, 2008 and is cosponsored by all members of the Texas congressional delegation. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where it was considered and passed by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 5517 is intended to remember the lives, service and legacy of hundreds of military men and women from the State of Texas who have served or lost their lives in service to our great country. By renaming this particular Humble, Texas post office, H.R. 5517 will set into motion the creation of a living tribute to the sacrifices made by so many of Texas' sons and daughters, who gave their lives in service and honor abroad in order to ensure our protection here at home, an honor befitting the thousands of military men and women past and present, from every State of the Union that have unselfishly given of themselves in service and in battle for America.

H.R. 5517 will help memorialize the memory of generations of Texas' servicemen and women for years to come by designating the 7231 FM 1960 Humble, Texas postal facility as the Texas Military Veterans Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. POE).

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Appreciate the comments by both sides on this very important piece of legislation.

The Post Office that we wish to name today is in my congressional district, it's in Humble, Texas, and it's a part of Southeast Texas where a great number of people continue to volunteer to be in our United States military.

Texans have always, when called upon by their country to go into service, have met that call with overwhelming numbers. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world in a military uniform, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the State of Texas.

And it goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran by the name of William Barrett Travis came to Texas from the State of South Carolina. He was a young lawyer, 27. And he was passionate about liberty and freedom. And he found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was over 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. They were really

from all States in the United States, six foreign countries as well, many of them, Mr. Speaker, from the State of Tennessee.

And he, like those defenders of the Alamo, were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. And as we all know, all of those first veterans gave their lives in that word that we praise today, that word of freedom. He was the first veteran that I wish to mention. And I will continue to mention just a few more so we know the importance of naming buildings after these wonderful people who have gone before us.

Of course, in that same struggle, all Texas armies were led by another Tennessean by the name of Sam Houston. Sam Houston became the general of all Texas forces after the battle of the Alamo. He serves as the unique distinction of the only person in American history being governor of two different states, the governor of Tennessee and the governor of Texas.

But before he became governor of Texas he was president of the Republic of Texas. And because of the fact that on April 21, which we celebrate a week from today, in 1836, General Sam Houston, leading a ragtag army of volunteers, once again from all over the United States, several foreign countries, defeated the enemy, Santa Ana and his overwhelming army at the banks and the marshes of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. After that battle was over with Texas became a Republic and remained a free nation for over 9 years, and we owe much of that to General Sam, another veteran of Texas.

It's interesting to note that General Sam Houston's last words before he died, he mentioned to his wife 2 words, "Texas, Texas." And then he died as a great military veteran of our State of Texas.

In World War I, there was an individual by the name of Kenneth Myers that served. In 1889 he was born. He joined the Navy in 1917, and he served on the battleship *Oklahoma* in World War I. And after the "War to End All Wars" was over with, he went ahead and became an agricultural expert in the State of Texas. He lived to be 107 before he died and became the third oldest survivor of that "War to End All Wars," World War I.

In World War II there were many great Texans who served, but probably the most notable was a young individual who was a cotton farmer from Farmersville, Texas. Audie Murphy was too little and too small, they said, to join the Marine Corps, so he got into the United States Army, and he fought in the Army in World War II and he served 27 months in combat. He is the most decorated U.S. combat soldier in United States military history. He had received the Medal of Honor, of course the highest U.S. military award, along with 32 other medals from the United States, five medals from France and one from Belgium.

Audie Murphy symbolizes the great tradition of folks who joined the mili-

tary, another wonderful veteran from the State of Texas.

A little-known veteran from Texas was an individual by the name of Doris Miller. That was his name, although he was a male, and he didn't even want his friend calling him Dorrie because his name was Doris.

He found himself, on December 7 on the USS *West Virginia*. He was a cook. Because of his race he was not allowed to be in combat, but when that battleship was attacked, he found himself behind a 50 caliber machine gun and shot down two, maybe three Japanese planes on December 7, 1941. And he was honored later as becoming the first African American to receive the Navy cross because of his heroism on that fateful day, that day of infamy, December 7, 1941.

□ 1445

Doris Miller later died in combat, and he was from the City of Waco, Texas.

A friend of mine who recently died was a Pearl Harbor survivor by the name of Luke Trahan from Beaumont, Texas, served in the United States Navy, a wonderful person and was a symbol of everything that is good and right about the veterans from our great State.

And, of course, having been the son of one of those individuals of the Greatest Generation, my father, Virgil Poe, served in Europe during World War II. He didn't say anything about his service in the United States Army because he went when he was a teenager, and after 50 years, he finally started talking about his service there after he and my mother went to that place in France that we call Normandy, where over 9,000 Americans are buried. He, along with both of my uncles, James Hamilton and Charles Willis, all three teenagers, served in that great war, World War II.

Also serving in World War II was Oveta Culp Hobby. She was a lawyer, and although she was a lawyer, she found herself in Washington, D.C., and when the war broke out, she became the director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps which was later called and referred to as the Women's Army Corps. She has the distinction of being the highest ranking woman to serve in World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her contributions in the war effort, becoming the first woman in American history to receive such award.

We're proud of the fact that Admiral Chester Nimitz is from Fredericksburg, Texas. Fredericksburg, Mr. Speaker, is a landlocked place. It's a long way from water. It is in the central part of the Hill Country of Texas; but Admiral Nimitz ended up being in the United States Navy, and during World War II, he was the Commander in Chief of all Pacific naval forces for the United States and Allied forces where he served with distinction. Even a high school is named for him in my congressional district.



Sometimes we forget the fact that Dwight David Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas, in 1890; although he later moved to Kansas, and he served in World War II as a 5-star general in the Army, also being the first Allied commander in all of Europe, a great distinction for him.

In 1943, a young man was commissioned as a teenager in the United States Naval Reserves, and he was assigned to the United States Ship *San Jacinto*; and on this ship he was assigned to become a pilot for the TMB Avengers. And while piloting one such mission in Chi Chi Jima off the Japanese coast, this individual was shot down and rescued later by a submarine in the area. This individual flew 58 combat missions. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals and the USS *San Jacinto* was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. That individual, of course, was former President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, there were many others who have served in the history of the State of Texas, but 12 individuals were remarkable in that these individuals, 12 brothers, these Band of Brothers, from a little town of Dayton, Texas, named the Ripkowsky brothers, all served in World War II and Korea. They served in all branches of the service. They served all over the United States and in foreign countries in combat, and after the wars were over, all 12 of them had the unique history of returning home to Dayton, Texas, where all of them lived except one who moved six miles away to the small town of Liberty. A great family that has served our country and veterans in their own right.

During the Korean War, Joseph Rodriguez from El Paso was drafted into the United States Army, although he later made the Army his career. Colonel Rodriguez, during the Korean War, received the Medal of Honor from President Truman because he attacked a Communist foxhole and then went on to attack four more Communist foxholes destroying all five emplacements and saving the lives of several of his comrades.

We have the unique distinction in this House of having a lot of great people who have served in our military in all branches of the service, both on this side and the other side, in this House and in the Senate. But one of those individuals grew up in Dallas, Texas, and he served in the United States Air Force for 29 years. He was the director of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School and flew with the Air Force Thunderbirds. He was a highly decorated fighter pilot who flew combat missions both in the Korean War and Vietnam, and in Korea he flew F-86s in 62 combat missions. In Vietnam, he flew F-4s.

And in 1966 while flying his 25th combat mission, our own SAM JOHNSON was shot down over North Vietnam. He was a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton

for 7 years, including 42 months in solitary confinement. During that time, he was repeatedly tortured.

He is a decorated war hero. He was awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, four Air Medals, and three Outstanding Unit Awards as well. We are honored to have him not only from the State of Texas but to serve in this House of Representatives as many other veterans do as well.

WORLD WAR II—DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY

Born September 7, 1908 in Louisiana.

With the outbreak of World War II, he volunteered for service, eventually becoming the Director of the Surgical Consultants' Division in the United States Army Surgeon General's Office.

His experience on the Surgeon General's staff taught him that more needed to be done for our veterans.

He recommended changes in staged management of war wounds.

He also created mobile army surgical hospitals or "MASH" units, which saved a countless number of American lives.

He also recommended medical follow-ups for veterans, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center System.

He's received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, and will soon receive the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

VIETNAM—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Accepted into Texas Air National Guard in May 1968 at the height of ongoing Vietnam war.

After training, assigned to duty in Houston, flying Convair F-102s out of Ellington Air Force Base.

IRAQ

This post office will also honor those brave Texans who fought and who are fighting in Iraq.

Like Captain David Fraser, a native of Spring, Texas, and West Point graduate.

Captain Fraser was killed in Baghdad on November 26, 2006 by an improvised explosive device, an IED.

For his valor in combat, Captain Fraser was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, among many other awards and honors.

One of the most remarkable stories in American military history is the story of an orphan by the name of Roy Benavidez born in Cuero, Texas. Roy Benavidez was a migrant farmer, and he decided in 1955 to join the United States Army. He later became a Green Beret after being trained at Special Forces Ft. Bragg.

On May 2, 1962, his 12-man Special Forces team was in Cambodia to observe a large-scale North Vietnamese troop movement, but the enemy had discovered them and they were all ambushed. Roy Benavidez was behind those lines and he jumped on a helicopter to help rescue his men. He was in such a hurry the only thing that he armed himself with to go rescue his fellow comrades was a Bowie knife. And after he arrived at the scene, he started moving his fellow warriors to those helicopters so that they could be rescued and taken back to safety.

Roy Benavidez, Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez, was wounded 37 times: seven gunshot wounds and mortar shrapnel in his back along with two bayonet wounds. He was left for dead. In fact, he was put in a body bag, and the person that was putting him in the body bag zipped the body bag up. Roy Benavidez found it within his demeanor to be able to spit in the face of that soldier letting him know he was still alive.

And even though he was wounded 37 times, he recovered. He received the Medal of Honor. President Reagan said at the ceremony, "if this (story) would have been written as fiction, no one would have ever believed it." A great American hero, and we are proud to have him from the State of Texas.

Just recently, Monica Brown served in Afghanistan. She was 19 years old from Lake Jackson and received the Silver Star for her heroism in saving her fellow comrades.

And there are many others that I would like to mention, but I'm not going to do so, and I have just a couple of other comments.

There's a university in Texas called Texas A&M. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor winners than any other university in the United States. And they volunteer and continue to volunteer to serve.

When George Patton was in Europe going to combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had in his division serving with him. He made the comment that, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war." And that's the sentiment that he had and the sentiment that we all have about folks from the State of Texas that are veterans, that have served all the way back from 1836 to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague and hero from the State of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my support for combat veterans from the Lone Star State. You have heard a lot of stories from TED POE.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and Texas native, I think it's great that Humble, Texas, will have a post office dedicated to those selfless men and women in the Armed Forces; and I commend my friend, TED POE, for spearheading this effort.

You know, many war heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan call the Lone Star State home. He mentioned one of

them, but as an example, you may know the name Marcus Luttrell. He was a Petty Officer First Class born in Huntsville, Texas, a former Navy SEAL, awarded the Navy Cross and wrote the New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor." The book details his remarkable story of surviving one of the war's deadliest battles for U.S. Special Forces. I had the honor of meeting him last week, and he's a remarkable individual.

TED mentioned Monica Lin Brown, the 19-year-old medic from Texas who became the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second woman since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest medal for valor. Army Specialist Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees last spring in Afghanistan. After the explosion which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away.

While today I have only mentioned Iraq and Afghanistan, I could go on for hours, as TED POE did, highlighting noticeable Texans who have gone above and beyond their service to this great Nation.

I want to thank Mr. POE and Humble, Texas, for recognizing those men and women who proudly wear the uniform for the United States of America. They help keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. I salute all of our veterans.

God bless you and may God continue to bless our great Nation. I salute all of you in this Chamber for your support for our veterans.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office." I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. POE, for introducing this important bill, and Chairman WAXMAN of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for bringing this legislation to the floor today. I strongly support honoring veterans of our armed forces, and I am proud to join my colleagues in the Texas delegation as an original cosponsor of this legislation. I hope my colleagues will join me in designating this facility as the Texas Military Veteran Post Office as a token of our appreciation.

The American men and women who serve in our armed forces are one of our Nation's most precious resources. Their service to this Nation could never be repaid, but we can ensure that our veterans who have faithfully served our country receive the recognition they are due and the services they need. Passing this resolution will send a strong message to our veterans that we appreciate their service. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must show every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine that we honor and continue to respect their service to our Nation.

Currently, there are 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Because I feel it is time that we recognize the success of our Nation's armed forces, I have introduced H.R. 4020, the "Military Success in Iraq Commemoration Act of 2007." This legislation recognizes the extraordinary performance of the Armed Forces in achieving the military objectives of the United States in Iraq as expressed by the Congressional mandate allowing for use of force, encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe a national day of celebration commemorating the military success of American troops in Iraq.

Most importantly, my legislation provides affirmative and tangible expressions of appreciation from a grateful nation to all veterans of the war in Iraq. It authorizes the Secretary of Defense to award grants to State and local governments "to conduct suitable activities commemorating military success in Iraq" and "to create appropriate memorials honoring those who lost their lives securing military success in Iraq." My legislation sets up grants for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, stating "the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award to each veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom a grant in the amount of \$5,000. The purpose of that grant is to facilitate the veteran's transition to civilian life." I am pleased that thirteen of my colleagues have already signed onto this important legislation.

Renaming this post office facility to honor our veterans is a small but important step toward giving veterans the full accolades that they deserve. At various points in our Nation's history, we have sent our sons and daughters overseas to fight in defense of the great values and principles our Nation was founded upon. At times when the need is greatest, America's soldiers have always stepped up to protect our Nation. Let us show them our gratitude by presenting them with a postal facility that stands as a symbol of their dedication and sacrifice. Let us never forget that one of the things that makes our Nation truly great are the young men and women who have fought to defend it and our way of life.

I firmly believe that we must commend the men and women of our military for their exemplary performance and success. When World War II finally came to an end in 1945, celebrations erupted on the streets of cities and towns across our Nation. One of the most enduring images of that war is not a picture of bombs or destruction, but of a jubilant soldier kissing a woman in New York City's Times Square. The veterans we continue to honor as the "Greatest Generation" returned home not only to open arms, but also to the G.I. Bill, which offered them college or vocational education, as well as one year of unemployment compensation. It also provided loans for re-

turning veterans to buy homes and start businesses.

This Congress has begun to show our appreciation through legislation. We have already enacted significant increases in veterans' health care funding—increasing it by \$5.2 billion. The increase will go for veterans' health programs, including mental health care for returning veterans, especially for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veteran Post Office."

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have no more speakers, and we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5517.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CONTRACTING AND TAX ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4881) to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4881

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008".*

#### SEC. 2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

*It is the policy of the United States Government that no Government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts.*

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.

*Section 3720B of title 31, United States Code, is amended—*



(1) in the section heading, by adding at the end **"OR CONTRACTS"**;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) Unless this subsection is waived by the head of a Federal agency, a person who has a seriously delinquent tax debt shall be proposed for debarment from any contract awarded by the Federal Government.

"(2) The head of any Federal agency that issues an invitation for bids or a request for proposals for a contract in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 4(11) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401(11))) shall require each person that submits a bid or proposal to submit with the bid or proposal a form—

"(A) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

"(B) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the agency information limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

"(3) The Secretary shall make available to all Federal agencies a standard form for the certification and authorization described in paragraph (2).

"(4) Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to incorporate the requirements of this subsection.

"(5) For purposes of this subsection:

"(A) The term 'contract' means a binding agreement entered into by a Federal agency for the purpose of obtaining property or services, but does not include—

"(i) a contract designated by the head of the agency as assisting the agency in the performance of disaster relief authorities; or

"(ii) a contract designated by the head of the agency as necessary to the national security of the United States.

"(B)(i) The term 'person' includes—

"(I) an individual;

"(II) a partnership; and

"(III) a corporation.

"(A) A partnership shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such partnership has a partner who—

"(I) holds an ownership interest of 50 percent or more in that partnership; and

"(II) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

"(iii) A corporation shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such corporation has an officer or a shareholder who—

"(I) holds 50 percent or more, or a controlling interest that is less than 50 percent, of the outstanding shares of corporate stock in that corporation; and

"(II) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

"(C)(i) The term 'seriously delinquent tax debt' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code.

"(ii) Such term does not include—

"(I) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

"(II) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsections (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending."

#### **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING OF GRANTS TO DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The head of any Executive agency that offers a grant in excess of an amount equal to the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 4(11) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401(11))) may not award such grant to any person unless such person submits with the application for such grant a form—

(1) certifying that the person does not have a seriously delinquent tax debt; and

(2) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to the head of the Executive agency

information limited to describing whether the person has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(b) *RELEASE OF INFORMATION.*—The Secretary shall make available to all Executive agencies a standard form for the certification and authorization described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) *REVISION OF REGULATIONS.*—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall revise such regulations as necessary to incorporate the requirements of this section.

(d) *DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.*—For purposes of this section:

(1) *PERSON.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term "person" includes—

(i) an individual;

(ii) a partnership; and

(iii) a corporation.

(B) *TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.*—A partnership shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such partnership has a partner who—

(i) holds an ownership interest of 50 percent or more in that partnership; and

(ii) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(C) *TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CORPORATIONS.*—A corporation shall be treated as a person with a seriously delinquent tax debt if such corporation has an officer or a shareholder who—

(i) holds 50 percent or more, or a controlling interest that is less than 50 percent, of the outstanding shares of corporate stock in that corporation; and

(ii) who has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

(2) *EXECUTIVE AGENCY.*—The term "executive agency" has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

(3) *SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term "seriously delinquent tax debt" means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code.

(B) *EXCEPTIONS.*—Such term does not include—

(i) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(ii) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsections (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, is a very simple bill and a very timely bill. It prevents companies that don't pay their taxes from receiving contracts with the Federal Government. Today, people across the country are finishing up their tax returns to submit to the IRS by tomorrow. Nobody likes to pay

taxes, but the vast majority of American families and companies obey the law and comply with their responsibilities as citizens and taxpayers.

□ 1500

Unfortunately, some people do not follow the law and have serious delinquencies in paying taxes to the IRS.

What is shocking to me and honest taxpayers across the country is that many companies that didn't pay their taxes were benefitting from Federal Government contracts. GAO studies over the past few years have identified more than 50,000 contractors owing nearly \$8 billion in unpaid Federal taxes. This bill will put an end to that problem once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4881 establishes a process to prohibit companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debt from receiving new Federal contracts and grants. It will reward responsible taxpaying contractors with more opportunities to continue serving the Federal Government for abiding by the law. And it should increase collections because companies will get current on their tax bills if they want to continue receiving Federal contracts. With a mounting Federal budget deficit and rising obligations, the Federal Government cannot afford to leave billions of dollars in tax revenue uncollected.

The sponsor of H.R. 4881, Mr. ELLSWORTH from Indiana, has put in a lot of work on this bill, and I want to thank him for his efforts. As a former sheriff, he wants to make sure people who break the law are not rewarded.

When we get into contracting and tax law, the law gets complicated. He has worked hard to make sure this law will not have unintended consequences. We also received guidance from our colleagues on the Ways and Means and Joint Tax Committees. I would like to thank my friend from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and his staff for their assistance.

Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman RANGEL exchanged letters regarding committee jurisdiction on this bill, and I ask that these letters be placed in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is of monumental importance to improving fairness and efficiency in Federal contracting. I fully support its passage and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, March 12, 2008.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,  
Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform  
Committee, Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY, I am writing regarding H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, which the Oversight and Government Reform Committee ordered favorably reported on March 13, 2008. As you know, a similar bill, H.R. 1870, was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Section 3 of H.R. 4881 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose to other agencies whether or not a potential Federal

contractor has a seriously delinquent tax debt as defined by the bill, and requires the Secretary to develop and issue a form for this purpose. As you know, Rule X gives the Committee on Ways and Means jurisdiction over subjects relating to the U.S. Treasury and tax information being disclosed to other agencies generally, and we have successfully asserted jurisdiction over similar legislation.

Because our staffs have worked together to produce this bipartisan legislation, and in order to expedite this legislation for Floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill, and will not oppose the inclusion of these provisions within H.R. 4881. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4881, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, April 11, 2008.

Hon. CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008, which the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported, as amended, on April 10, 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation and I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree that your inaction with respect to this bill does not prejudice the Ways and Means Committee's interests and prerogatives regarding this bill or similar legislation.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor of H.R. 4881.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4881, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008.

This legislation would subject any firm that has a seriously delinquent tax debt, defined to mean any time the IRS has filed a tax lien against the company, to a debarment proceeding with the aim of preventing the firm from obtaining a government contract or grant.

Potential contractors and grant recipients must certify that the company does not have any seriously delinquent tax debt in order to be eligible for Federal grants and contracts.

This might sound like a reasonable requirement, and it is. In fact, the administration is currently finalizing a regulation that would require Federal contractors and grantees to certify, among other things, that they have not

been notified by the IRS of liability for delinquent taxes. The proposed regulation would also include the failure to pay taxes as a specific cause for a company to be debarred from receiving Federal contracts. Since the issue addressed in this legislation is already being addressed through the regulatory process, it is unclear to us whether this legislation is necessary. Nevertheless, we will not object to it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. ELLSWORTH.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I would like to thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2008.

Tomorrow is April 15, Tax Day, a day when Americans follow through on their civic obligation by filing their tax returns with the Federal Government. Paying taxes isn't something any of us enjoy doing, but we all do it anyway out of a sense of duty to our country.

Each year, taxpayers play by the rules and pay their share of taxes. I don't think it's too much to ask companies, particularly those who receive Federal Government contracts, to do the very same.

According to the Government Accountability Office report, in 2004 and 2005 alone, government contractors owed the U.S. Treasury over \$5 billion, that's billion with a "b," in unpaid Federal taxes. Many of these contractors were closely held businesses that simply gamed the system by withholding employee wages, Social Security, Medicare and individual income taxes and then never sending these withholdings to the IRS.

That doesn't mean that all contractors are cheating the system; in fact, most are not. Most are doing terrific work and putting our tax dollars to good use. But we have a responsibility to protect companies and taxpayer dollars by stopping corrupt contractors from gaming our system. The only way you do that, when they won't do it on their own, is by increased oversight.

This legislation is simple in scope and will go a long way towards ensuring that companies doing business with the Federal Government are doing that in good faith. And by leveling the playing field between contractors, we can better ensure our tax dollars are not used to reward tax cheats.

The Contracting and Tax Accountability Act establishes a process to prevent people who have serious tax delinquent debts from ever receiving Federal contracts or grants. This legislation affirms that it is the policy of the United States that no government contracts or grants should be awarded to individuals or companies with seriously delinquent Federal tax debts. It requires that bids for Federal contracts include a certification that the person

does not possess serious delinquent tax debt. An authorization to verify this certification with the Secretary of the Treasury is also required.

The definition of serious delinquent tax debt was carefully defined as an outstanding debt for which a Notice of Lien has been filed in the public record. The definition also excludes tax debt that is being repaid in accordance with an installment agreement, and a tax debt for which a collection due process has been requested.

I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman ED TOWNS for guiding this legislation through his subcommittee, and Mike McCarthy on his staff for lending his expertise. I would also like to thank Senator BARACK OBAMA and Ian Solomon on his staff for their collaboration in the Senate on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act is a practical and cost-effective way to ensure all companies who wish to do business with the Federal Government compete on an equal playing field. This legislation protects good faith contractors who are playing by the rules and brings much needed transparency to how our tax dollars are being spent.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished Chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4881, introduced by Representative ELLSWORTH, is a very important bill. It's a simple one. It's a commonsense bill. It would prohibit the award of Federal contracts to companies that don't pay their Federal taxes. It accomplishes this by requiring contractors to certify they do not have a serious delinquent debt, and to authorize the Treasury Department to disclose such information to contracting agencies.

The Federal Government should not be granting Federal contracts to companies that won't pay their taxes. Companies that cheat on their taxes have an unfair competitive advantage when bidding for Federal contracts because their costs are lowered. This bill will level the playing field and restore fairness to the Federal procurement system.

Representative TOWNS, who is the chairman of the subcommittee, along with Mr. ELLSWORTH, have put a lot of time and effort into addressing these concerns and in crafting a very good bill, and I want to thank them for all their hard work.

The minority also raised some concerns about previous versions of this legislation, and I also want to thank Representative TOM DAVIS for working constructively with us to address those issues.

The end product before us today is solid legislation which should have bipartisan support, and which I hope will address this issue once and for all.

I thank Representative ELLSWORTH for his excellent recommendations in offering this bill and seeing it through to the point where we are now on the House floor. I hope this bill will soon become law.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4881.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4881, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PLAIN LANGUAGE IN GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3548) to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3548

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008".

### SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to improve the Federal Government's effectiveness and accountability to the public by promoting clear communication that the public can understand and use.

### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" means an Executive agency, as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) PLAIN LANGUAGE.—The term "plain language" means language that the intended audience can readily understand and use because it is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices of plain language writing.

### SEC. 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN NEW DOCUMENTS.—Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each agency—

(1) shall use plain language in any covered document of the agency issued or substantially revised after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) may use plain language in any revision of a covered document issued on or before such date; and

(3) shall, when appropriate, use the English language in covered documents.

(b) GUIDANCE.—In implementing subsection (a), an agency may follow either the guid-

ance of the Plain English Handbook, published by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Federal Plain Language Guidelines. If any agency has its own plain language guidance, the agency may use that guidance, as long as it is consistent with the Federal Plain Language Guidelines, the Plain English Handbook, published by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the recommendations made by the Comptroller General under section 5(c).

(c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(1) to prohibit the use of a language other than English;

(2) to limit the preservation or use of Native Alaskan or Native American languages (as defined in the Native American Languages Act);

(3) to disparage any language or discourage any person from learning or using a language;

(4) to impact or affect protections regarding language access; or

(5) to be inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States.

(d) COVERED DOCUMENT.—In this section, the term "covered document"—

(1) means any document that explains how to obtain a benefit or service or file taxes, or that is relevant to obtaining a benefit or service or filing taxes; and

(2) includes, whether in paper or electronic form, a letter, publication, form, notice, or instruction but does not include a regulation.

(e) USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE BY AGENCIES.—Each agency should, to the extent practicable and appropriate, use plain language in any collection of information (as defined in section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44, United States Code).

(f) INCORPORATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) REPORTS.—

(A) FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, acting through the Plain Language Action and Information Network, shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on whether the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in the report under section 5(c) have been incorporated into the Federal Plain Language Guidelines described in subsection (b), and, if such recommendations have not been incorporated, an explanation of why they have not been incorporated.

(B) SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on whether the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in the report under section 5(c) have been incorporated into the Plain English Handbook described in subsection (b), and, if such recommendations have not been incorporated, an explanation of why they have not been incorporated.

(2) COMMITTEES.—The committees described in this paragraph are the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(3) DEADLINE.—The reports required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted within six months after the issuance of the report provided by the Comptroller General under section 5(c).

### SEC. 5. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes how the agency intends to meet the following objectives:

(1) Communicating the requirements of this Act to agency employees.

(2) Training agency employees to write in plain language.

(3) Meeting the deadline set forth in section 4(a).

(4) Ensuring ongoing compliance with the requirements of this Act.

(5) Designating a senior official to be responsible for implementing the requirements of this Act.

(6) Using, to the extent practicable and appropriate, plain language in regulations promulgated by the agency.

(b) ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS.—

(1) The head of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on—

(A) compliance with this Act; and

(B) the agency's continued efforts to meet the objectives specified in subsection (a).

(2) A report under this subsection shall be submitted—

(A) annually for the first two years after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) once every three years thereafter.

(c) EVALUATION AND REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall evaluate existing guidance for agencies on writing in plain language, including the guidance listed in section 4(b), and provide to the Office of Management and Budget, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report providing recommendations on—

(1) plain language guidelines; and

(2) best practices for plain language.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last September, I introduced H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, and I rise today to talk about the responsibility of this government to communicate effectively with its constituents.

I know that lawyers are often blamed for the legalese that makes government documents so difficult to read and understand. Some might find it unusual that this "Plain Language" bill was introduced by someone who practiced law for 23 years before being elected to Congress. They might be surprised to learn that the use of clear,

concise language in communications has been a passion of mine since I began practicing law in 1983, when the Iowa Supreme Court adopted plain language requirements for jury instructions. Since that time, I have been writing and speaking about the importance of using plain language to improve both written and spoken communications.

I was proud to introduce the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, a bill that requires the Federal Government to write documents such as letters from the Social Security Administration or a notice from the Department of Veterans Affairs in simple, easy-to-understand language. This bill has been endorsed by a broad array of organizations, including the AARP, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Disabled American Veterans, the Small Business Association, Women Impacting Policy, the American Nurses Association, and the American Library Association.

I want to thank the Information Policy Subcommittee Chairman William Lacy Clay and Ranking Member Michael Turner, as well as Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member Tom Davis for their support of this important legislation. I am pleased that this bill has such strong bipartisan support and passed unanimously in both of these committees.

Anyone who has done their own taxes knows the headache of trying to understand pages and pages of confusing forms and instructions. There is no reason why the Federal Government can't write tax documents and other public documents in language we can all understand.

Writing government documents in plain language will increase government accountability and will save Americans time and money. Plain, straightforward language makes it easy for taxpayers to understand what the Federal Government is doing and what services it's offering.

Small businesses will also see substantial benefits by eliminating Federal gobbledygook. Small businesses often have limited resources and are forced to hire lawyers and outside consultants to navigate the maze of Federal paperwork and convoluted language.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses estimates that the average per hour cost of paperwork and record keeping for small businesses is \$48.72 per hour. The use of clear, easy-to-understand language in government paperwork will substantially reduce burdens on small businesses.

The Plain Language in Government Communications Act will require the Federal Government to write new publications, forms and publicly distributed documents in a clear, concise, well organized manner that follows the best practices of plain language writing.

I have in my hand the Plain Language Handbook that's already being

used by the Securities Exchange Commission, along with the Federal Plain Language guidelines which were adopted under another plain language initiative that began under President Clinton. These guidelines make it clear that the ultimate purpose of any communication from the Federal Government should be to reach the intended audience, the constituents and citizens of this country, in language they can understand and act upon.

Using complex language in government forms, letters, notices and instructions imposes unnecessary hardships on citizens. Replacing complex language with plain language will improve services to the public, save time agencies spend answering questions about what documents mean, and make it easier to hold government agencies accountable for their work.

This document to my right is a perfect example of what I'm talking about when I talk about the problem posed by using gobbledygook in Federal communications. This is a quote from a former Secretary of Defense, and it says, "There are known knowns. These are things we know we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are some things we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. These are things we don't know we don't know."

□ 1515

That is the problem we are trying to address with this bill.

One other example is this language from a Federal contract requiring investigations of contracts to make sure that they are living up to the purpose that they were intended to perform. This is the original language that was contained in the contracting compliance document, and it covers almost an entire page. The plain language version of that same admonition says simply: "We will take two steps to look at this matter. We will find out if it was an error or a fraud, and we will let you know the result." Clear, concise, and directed to the intended audience.

Finally, one of the best examples of the cost-savings potential is this Veterans Administration form that was used to respond to concerns raised by veterans seeking assistance with their benefits. An old letter that was not drafted in plain language generated an average of 91.4 calls per month, a total of 10,968 calls in a year. After that same form was drafted using these very basic plain language guidelines, they resulted in only 16 calls per month and a total of 1,900 calls for the entire year. You can imagine the enormous savings of time at the Veterans Administration responding to concerns from veterans seeking assistance when you reduce it by that much.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to clarify that nothing in this bill is intended to impact the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 13166, Department of Justice LEP Guidance, any agency LEP guidance, or any other statute, execu-

tive order, agency guidance, regulation, or court order regarding language access.

I hope this bill makes it easier for Americans and small businesses to work with and understand their government. I also hope that in some small way, this bill honors the memory of our former colleague, Maury Maverick, Sr., who served two terms in the House from 1935 to 1939. Congressman Maverick invented the term "gobbledygook" to describe bureaucratic language that was as hard to understand as the call of wild turkeys in his native South Texas.

I want to thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who join me today in standing up for plain language, in standing up for effective communications with our constituents, in standing up for small business owners, and in standing up for taxpayers, who will see significant cost savings when this bill is signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008. This legislation would enhance citizen access to government information services by promoting the use of "plain language" in government documents issued to the public.

Writing in plain language doesn't mean writing only about simple things. It means writing well about anything the government writes about.

During committee consideration of this legislation, Republican amendments were adopted that further the cause of requiring the use of plain language. Mr. SALI succeeded in revising the bill to require plain language be used in preparing collections of information, primarily tax documents, as well as regulations issued by Federal agencies. In addition, the committee accepted an amendment I offered to promote the use of the English language in documents.

I have been a consistent advocate in Congress of improving government accountability, responsiveness, and transparency. I believe this legislation is consistent with these efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support the Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, as you sit down to beat the April 15 deadline for filing your tax returns, consider this: In 1913 the IRS tax form, that's singular, "form," was 1 page, and the entire Tax Code was a mere 14 pages long. Today the Tax Code consists of an amazing 15,758 pages bound in 22 volumes. James Madison's words ring true when he said, "It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be

read or so incoherent that they cannot be understood."

Today this Chamber is addressing a commonsense measure, one dedicated to James Madison's proposition that the laws governing us should be readily understood by average citizens.

No one enjoys paying taxes, but at the very least the forms should be readable and understandable to the average American. Americans should be able to tell quickly and easily whether they're paying too much or too little in taxes. It should not take an attorney to figure it out.

It is imperative that Americans know just what is being asked of them, and that is why plain language in tax forms and instructions is so important.

The Plain Language in Government Communications Act will enhance citizen access to government information and services by promoting the use of plain language in government documents issued to the public.

When the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives addressed this bill in January, I raised concerns that the bill only focused on documents relating to benefits or services. Since that time I have worked with Congressman BRALEY to find a way to expand the scope of this bill to include things like tax forms, instructions, surveys, and other similar documents. These changes appear in the text under consideration today, requiring that tax forms and instructions be made available in plain, straightforward language.

During this time of year, we all recognize the importance of plain language as we tackle tax forms. It is my hope that this bill will become law, which will lessen the burden of government on taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to support this important and commonsense measure.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague from Idaho for working to improve this bill and also for sharing my passion for making sure that the Federal Government is doing everything it can to communicate clearly and effectively with the citizens and taxpayers of this country.

I also want to thank my colleague from North Carolina for her excellent point that adopting plain language requirements does nothing to dumb down the intent and purpose of these Federal documents. In fact, the whole point of adopting plain language guidelines is to improve the effectiveness and the clarity of these documents so that the average person who interacts with them on a daily basis is able to respond directly to the responsibilities laid out under the Federal statutes and regulations and perform the obligations that they are required to by law.

So I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for having enormous opportunities to make this a bill that I think we can all be proud of, one that our constituents back home will

benefit from, and one that will save, most significantly, the taxpayers of this country, in my belief, millions and millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased with this bill and urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3548.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would just like to remind everyone that one of the points of the bill is it to save taxpayers money. The example that I used earlier from the Jackson, Mississippi, Veterans Benefits Administration where they changed the form that allowed them to reduce substantially the number of requests they got from veterans seeking help with their disability benefits saved \$10,000 in one year, just that one form. And if you think about the multiplier effect of applying plain language guidelines to documents in every Federal agency that are being sent out to citizens and taxpayers, the enormous potential at savings is something that I think we will all be proud of once this bill is signed into law by the President.

With that, I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRALEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### HONORING AND RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 259) honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 259

Whereas the Meals On Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member local senior nutrition programs help those men and women in cities, suburban areas,

and rural communities across America who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or at risk;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member programs provide nutritious meals to individuals who suffer from long-term chronic conditions as well as those who may just need short-term assistance;

Whereas good nutrition is essential to good health and the meals provided by senior nutrition programs contribute to the overall well-being of America's seniors;

Whereas the Meals On Wheels member programs serve this country's over 60 population, which is rapidly growing and projected to increase dramatically;

Whereas the demand for the services Meals On Wheels member programs will continue to increase at an astounding pace;

Whereas in the words of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, these programs are needed "so no senior goes hungry"; and

Whereas each March, chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act of 1965, Meals On Wheels member programs across the country conduct local, community-based "March For Meals" fundraising and awareness campaigns: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the important work the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country do in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our nation's seniors each year,

(2) recognizes the important role the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs throughout the country's March For Meals campaigns play in increasing awareness of the need for senior nutrition programs and in raising non-Federal funds and soliciting volunteers to support and assist these programs in accomplishing their important mission,

(3) honors the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs for their continuing hard work and dedication on behalf of our nation's seniors, and

(4) encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March For Meals events and delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 259 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 259, authored by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO). H. Res. 259 honors

and recognizes the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization that provides meals to people in need. Through their many programs, Meals on Wheels strives to support the social, physical, nutritional, and economic needs of vulnerable individuals. Meals on Wheels offers tools and information to programs across the Nation and supports these organizations in making a difference in the lives of those at risk. They do this through professional training, creative leadership, and cash grants. Meals on Wheels helps local senior meal programs provide food and other nutrition services nationwide.

Hunger continues to be a profound problem in our country, Mr. Speaker. Nationwide nearly 38 million people live in households suffering from hunger, up from 33 million in the year 2000. Meals on Wheels is at the forefront of combating hunger by providing nutritious meals to people across the country, those who are elderly, those who are homebound, disabled, or at risk and who are at the greatest risk of going hungry. Even with these impressive efforts, a great need still exists. At this moment 40 percent of Meals on Wheels programs across the country report that there are waiting lists for their nutrition services.

Furthermore, the needs for Meals on Wheels will continue to grow. The elderly population in the United States has grown exponentially over the last few decades and will continue to increase well into the mid 21st century. The demographics that will experience the most growth is that of adults age 85 and older. At the same time, the economic insecurity of this elderly population will continue to rise, creating a dire need for services such as those provided by Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of the annual March For Meals campaign, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the important role that Meals on Wheels programs play all year long all over the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country and their annual March For Meals campaigns.

□ 1530

The senior nutrition programs, authorized under title III of the Older Americans Act, was designed to address problems of dietary inadequacy and social isolation among older people. During fiscal year 2005, 238,000

meals were served to about 2.8 million people. Fifty-eight percent were served to frail older people living at home.

Meals on Wheels is the most recognized name brand of senior nutrition programs. It is the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. Meals on Wheels programs support the independence and well-being of seniors and reduce the isolation experienced by so many elderly. Meals are delivered to seniors' homes, and too frequently the person delivering that meal may be the only person the senior sees all day. The Meals on Wheels program provides human contact and a safety net, particularly for those seniors living alone.

Over the last several decades, a substantial growth in the elderly population has increased the demand for meal services. Today, Meals on Wheels and other similar senior nutrition programs that seek to feed the elderly report that 4 out of 10 programs have waiting lists for nutrition services.

With one baby boomer turning 60 every 7 seconds, the demand for nutrition services will continue to increase. According to a Census Bureau projection, the elderly population in the United States will more than double between now and the year 2050 to 80 million people. It is clear that the work of Meals on Wheels will continue well into the future.

Today, we also recognize the March For Meals campaign which takes place each year during the month of March. This campaign works to commemorate the enactment of the Older Americans Act. It is also a time for Meals on Wheels programs to focus on fundraising, awareness and volunteer recruitment.

Even though March has passed, today I stand in support of this resolution and the Meal on Wheels program. I would like to thank Mr. LOBIONDO for offering this resolution, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to honor and recognize the important role of Meals on Wheels and the role that it plays in combating hunger for the neediest among us.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 259, a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and their annual March for Meals campaign. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Representative LOBIONDO, for asking me to join him as a lead sponsor of this important legislation.

We all know the statistics related to senior nutrition programs and Meals on Wheels. In my home State of Rhode Island alone, there are an estimated 2,200 meals delivered each day to homebound and elderly clients and over 600,000 meals delivered each year by over 1,000 volunteers. The cost to provide one meal each day for one month is less than \$100, by far less expensive than the cost of a nursing home, which averages nearly \$5,000 per month.

I often cite these statistics because I am proud of the work of my local Meals on Wheels program, but these numbers fail to illustrate one of the more important results from the program. Because these clients are homebound, they are too often isolated from their communities and spend their days alone. Even a brief visit from a friendly Meals on Wheels volunteer provides much needed social interaction and a connection to the community.

I have participated in March for Meals in my community, and I encourage other Members of Congress and elected officials to take the time to visit their homebound constituents who receive meals. Unfortunately, one in ten seniors lives in poverty in our Nation and the need for home-delivered meals continues to increase. It is critical that Members of Congress know firsthand the powerful effects of these delivered meals on our seniors, not only to feed their bodies, but to feed their souls.

Thank you, again, to my colleague, Representative LOBIONDO, for introducing this important resolution and to Meals on Wheels and their volunteers for their tremendous work in taking care of our most vulnerable Americans. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 259, and to participate in March for Meals in their home districts.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association.

Established in the 1950s, Meals on Wheels is the oldest private, non-profit, volunteer-based service that delivers nutritious meals to homebound persons, enabling them to maintain their independence and continue to live in their own homes.

The program also provides daily contact with a trained volunteer who provides important social interaction and a link to the community and gives important referral information for other appropriate community resources as needed.

Today's elderly depend on this program throughout the country for their meals and other nutrition services. It is crucial that Congress continue to support this important program in order for the most vulnerable people to receive quality meals in the most efficient and effective manner.

Last year, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Meals on Wheels in my district and prepare meals and deliver them to seniors. It was such a rewarding experience, and I comment the volunteers of this program for making such a difference in people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and service of the Meals on Wheels Association of America. Their contributions throughout the United States touch the hearts of millions of people, and I wish them many years of continued success.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 259, honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, MOWAA, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns. I would also like to thank my colleague Chairman GEORGE MILLER, of the Education and Labor Committee, for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America is the oldest and largest organization in the



United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. The first home-delivered meal program in the United States started in 1954 in Philadelphia, PA. The Meals on Wheels Association of America gives cash grants to local senior meal programs throughout the country to assist in providing meals and other nutrition services. The mission of Meals on Wheels Association of America is "to provide visionary leadership and professional training and to develop partnerships that will ensure the provision of quality nutrition services."

To cite just one example, Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston, in my home city, has been addressing the nutritional and emotional needs of seniors for 30 years. Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston currently serves more than 3,300 hungry, homebound seniors. In January, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples awarded \$9.5 million in State funding to almost 100 agencies that serve meals to homebound elderly and people with special needs, including \$1.4 million to Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston. I personally know of the good work of the Meals on Wheels program because I chaired Houston's Interfaith Ministries Board which ran this program. I would also insure that the program survived.

Currently, senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels report that 4 out of 10 programs have waiting lists for nutrition services. There are 78.2 million Baby Boomers, and one of those Baby Boomers turns 60 every 7 seconds. Every 8 seconds someone else is turning 50. The demand for nutrition services is increasing each and everyday and we must continue to support senior nutrition programs such as Meals on Wheels.

The March For Meals campaign has been slowly growing into a permanent part of the Meals on Wheels consciousness. March for Meals is a campaign that takes place at any time during the month of March. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act. Some programs choose to make their campaigns last the whole month, while others concentrate on a single week or day. The biggest component of March For Meals is the Mayors For Meals Day.

Today, Meals on Wheels programs generally operate locally, at the county level or smaller. Programs vary widely in their size, service provided, organization, and funding. Although Meals on Wheels Association of America is a national program, each local program is entirely independent. Depending on the program, meals may be delivered by paid drivers or by volunteers. Most clients of Meals on Wheels programs are elderly and programs receiving Federal funding may not serve people less than 60 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation recognizes and honors the commendable hard work and dedication exhibited by Meals on Wheels for over the past 50 years. I encourage other Members of Congress to continue to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March For Meals events and campaigns. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 259 and urge all members to do the same.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 259.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1097) expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1097

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 905,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect out of an estimated 6,100,000 children referred for investigations and assessments;

Whereas the number of children who received an investigation or assessment by Child Protective Services increased by 333,000 from 2002 to 2006;

Whereas in 2006, an estimated 1,530 children died tragically as a result of abuse or neglect;

Whereas some of the most vulnerable children in our Nation are the most likely to be maltreated, with the youngest suffering the highest rate of victimization and children with disabilities also experiencing a high risk of maltreatment;

Whereas 91,278 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old;

Whereas children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases;

Whereas a National Institute of Justice study indicated abuse or neglect during childhood increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent and adult criminal behavior by 28 percent;

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children;

Whereas 25 percent of children maltreated in 2006 had prior history of victimization.

Whereas child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs;

Whereas community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse;

Whereas the annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104,000,000,000,

according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America;

Whereas child protection agencies are unable to provide important follow-up services such as counseling or case management to 40 percent of the abused and neglected children on their caseloads; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(2) should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work with the States to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect; and

(3) should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert materials relevant to H. Res. 1097 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a child's safety should never be put in jeopardy. That's why I rise in support of H. Res. 1097, authored by Congressman COURTNEY from Connecticut.

H. Res. 1097 is a bill to designate this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We need to shine a light on the tragic circumstances, Mr. Speaker, that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis. As people across the country recognize this month as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and promote awareness activities in order to reduce the cases of child maltreatment, this resolution moves us one step closer to securing the safety and well-being of all children.

The latest data shows us that in the year 2006, approximately 1,530 children died, died in the United States of America, due to maltreatment, and an additional 905,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect. Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that our most vulnerable children are at greatest risk. Approximately 90,000 victims of child abuse and neglect in the year 2000 were less than 1 year old. More than 84 percent of those child abuse victims were less than 1 month old.

These facts are appalling. We must work together to bring attention to this important issue and begin to

strengthen our families and our communities and to keep our children safe. We need to emphasize the need for more prevention programs because prevention works by reducing risk factors, by promoting protective factors and by fostering a commitment for social change.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative COURTNEY for introducing this important bill. It is my hope and it is my goal that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1097 so that together we can reduce child abuse and neglect by increasing public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1097, expressing support for the designation of the month of April, 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to bring attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security.

Child abuse comes in many forms, physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Too often, these forms of abuse are found in combination with one another. Approximately 905,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2006. Nearly 80 percent of the perpetrators were parents of the victims.

Last year, it was estimated that the total annual cost of child abuse in the United States was nearly \$104 billion. This represents more than \$33 billion in direct costs of child maltreatment, including judicial, foster care, law enforcement and health system responses and \$70 billion in indirect costs including long-term economic effects.

Each of us can make a difference in the prevention of child abuse by understanding the causes of child abuse, by learning to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused, by reporting any known or suspected case of child abuse, by being a friend to a child or a parent in need and by alerting others to the problem.

I want to thank the folks in Wilkes County who invited me to attend a vigil at Our House in Wilkes County which provides services to abused children there. Every year, the staff and volunteers of Our House hold a vigil to raise awareness of this terrible problem in our area of the country. I know that other counties in the Fifth District of North Carolina, which I represent, also have worked to raise awareness. I want to particularly commend them for doing it.

In 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was first enacted to create a focal point in the Federal Government to identify and address issues of child abuse and neglect and to support effective methods of prevention and treatment. Through this act,

States receive grants to help with their child protective service functions, improve investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment and to assist community-based family resource and support services.

Today, we recognize that child abuse and neglect are preventable through the efforts of schools, neighbors, families and the community. Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us all with an opportunity to work together to keep children safe and to provide the support that families need to stay together and raise children and youth to be happy, secure and stable adults.

In 1983, April was first proclaimed as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, every April, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country. That is why I stand in support of this resolution, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this great resolution, Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut, and a member of the committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her leadership by managing this resolution this afternoon and for Congresswoman FOXX's strong support that she just articulated very powerfully.

As Congresswomen WOOLSEY and FOXX stated, the statistics that the resolution lays forth clearly show the grave seriousness of this problem of child abuse all across America. In addition, though, just to the horrible trauma to the victims of child abuse, which by itself would be reason to fight this problem, society pays a huge price due to the high incidence of alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, and criminal behavior that has been clearly shown to occur in the later lives of too many children who were abused and neglected.

Recent statistics, for example, show that 14 percent of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children and 36 percent of women in prison were abused as children. And it is easy sometimes to get very discouraged about the numbers that just seem to suggest a problem that is growing almost out of control. In Connecticut, the State where I come from, for example, in between 1990 and 2003, the incidence of reported child abuse actually doubled. But I would suggest that perhaps we should look at those numbers in a different fashion, because what is also happening out there is that as a country, we are prepared, as never before in the past, to confront this issue. Mandated reporting laws now require that doctors, mental health providers and professionals in all arrays of professions that deal with families and children are now required by law to report incidents of abuse which in the past would have been swept under the

rug. And that is one of the reasons why the number of cases are going up.

In addition, I think we should also be encouraged by a smarter and more effective approach that is being developed to fight child abuse, the multidisciplinary teams that are pulling together police, social workers, prosecutors, health care providers, nurse practitioners and doctors who are now systematically working together to make sure, number one, that complaints are dealt with accurately, but also that victims are diagnosed, treated and interviewed in an organized fashion so that there is more effective prosecution of cases.

If it seems as though I may be a little bit passionate about this issue, it is because my wife, Audrey, has been a pediatric nurse practitioner for 18 years in Connecticut, has worked at Saint Francis Hospital at Hartford and Windham Hospital as part of the multidisciplinary team, again, that is employing the best techniques possible to make sure that complaints are handled intelligently, swiftly and also in a comprehensive fashion so that prosecutions are not lost or neglected due to the fact that we don't have systems in place to make sure that the cases are handled in an effective manner.

This resolution, I think, adds to both of those positive trends by putting the spotlight on this issue to make sure that we, as a country, are prepared to confront the issue, to talk about it openly, to talk about the numbers that are out there and the terrible consequences that we face as a society when we don't deal with the issue.

So hopefully this year, like prior years, as Congresswoman FOXX indicated, April will act as a month where awareness will continue to grow, that we are going to continue to, as a society, deal with this issue honestly and frankly so that, A, we will protect our children who are our most valuable national treasure, and, B, that we will have systems that are prepared to effectively prosecute and punish perpetrators, and finally, that we are going to treat and care for people who have been abused in such a terrible fashion, because it helps not only them, but it helps American society.

So again, I applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY for bringing this measure out on the floor this afternoon and I urge unanimous passage when it comes up for a vote later this evening.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I also thank Congresswoman FOXX for her support in all of these bills that have come before us this afternoon.

It is so important that together on both sides of the aisle and that we understand the urgency of the resolution like Congressman COURTNEY's resolution today.

Child abuse should be something we talk about and think about every day, every minute, every second. There should never be a time when we don't worry about the little children in our country and in our world and what adults do to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution to make sure we bring it to the attention of those around the country, not just this month, but every month following.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1097, "Expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security." I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

There is no greater crime than an individual can commit to a child than the crime of child molestation and child abuse. The perpetrators of this crime rob children of their innocence. Moreover, victims of child molestation are profoundly affected for the rest of their lives. As parents, elected officials and concerned citizens, we have an obligation to condemn this violence, work for stronger enforcement of the law and provide adequate funding for programs to assist children who may have experienced such abuse.

The problem of violence against children and sexual exploitation of children has been highlighted by recent events involving brutal acts of violence against children. Some recent incidents you may remember include: (1) the abduction, rape and killing of 9 year old Jessica Lunford (who was buried alive); (2) the slaying of 13 year old Sarah Lunde, both of whom were killed in Florida by career criminals and sex offenders. In Philadelphia, four defendants were charged with the stabbing and killing of a 15 year old girl, who they then threw into the Schuylkill River. All of these tragic events have underscored the continuing epidemic of violence against children. Children who are abused or neglected are at higher risk in adulthood for health problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases.

Sadly, sexual abuse is often committed by a family member. Approximately 91,000 of the victims of abuse and neglect had not yet reached their first birthday, with more than 84 percent being less than a month old. Incest is the most common form of child sexual abuse. It is often perpetrated by adults that have been entrusted with caring for a child—a family friend, babysitter, a teacher, day care worker, or even religious leaders. At least one out of five adult women and one out of ten adult men report having been sexually abused as children. In Texas, there were more than 111,000 investigations of child abuse and neglect by the Child Protective Services in Texas. Of those cases, 7,650 were sexual abuse.

In addition, the sexual victimization of children is overwhelming in magnitude and largely unrecognized and underreported. Statistics show that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys are

sexually exploited before they reach adulthood, yet less than 35 percent of the incidents are reported to authorities. This problem is exacerbated by the number of children who are solicited online—according to the Department of Justice 1 in 5 children (10 to 17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations online.

It is estimated that approximately one-third of abused and neglected children grow up to victimize their own children. Child abuse and neglect can have long-term economic and societal costs. Community-based services to overburdened families are far less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children or the costs of child protective services, law enforcement, courts, foster care, health care, and the treatment of adults recovering from child abuse. The annual estimated cost to the United States for not preventing child abuse and neglect is approximately \$104 billion according to a 2008 report by Prevent Child Abuse America.

It will take more than just stronger enforcement of the law to prevent child molestation and other forms of abuse against children. To end this serious abuse of children, all segments of the community such as parents, educators, religious leaders, and community leaders must create a nurturing environment for children where they know that they are loved and deserve to be protected from violence and sexual abuse and feel comfortable in reporting.

Local law enforcement receives increased flexibility in how it invests grants for child abuse victims, specifically by providing access to criminal conviction records by child protective and child welfare workers. This would enable workers to determine if troubled children are victims of abuse. State law enforcement would also have access to court child custody, visitation, protection, guardianships and stay away orders. Police could use this information to establish the validity of urgent complaints concerning children who may have been kidnapped by an abusive ex-spouse.

I express my support for the designation of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I believe we should increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention and should continue to work to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. We should recognize that child abuse and neglect prevention programs reduce child maltreatment, strengthen families, reduce mental illness, deter criminal behavior, and contribute to children's positive emotional, academic, social, and cognitive development.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5719, TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-585) on the resolution (H. Res. 1102) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2634, JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-586) on the resolution (H. Res. 1103) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 886, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 994, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3548, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on H.R. 5517 and H. Res. 1097 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

# EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF COLORADO SHOOTINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 886, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

## YEAS—380

Abercrombie	Conaway	Green, Gene
Ackerman	Conyers	Grijalva
Aderholt	Cooper	Hall (NY)
Akin	Costa	Hall (TX)
Alexander	Costello	Hare
Altmire	Courtney	Harman
Arcuri	Cramer	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Crenshaw	Hayes
Bachmann	Crowley	Heller
Bachus	Cubin	Hensarling
Baird	Cuellar	Herger
Baldwin	Cummings	Herseth Sandlin
Barrett (SC)	Davis (AL)	Higgins
Barrow	Davis (CA)	Hill
Bartlett (MD)	Davis (IL)	Hinchee
Barton (TX)	Davis (KY)	Hinojosa
Bean	Davis, David	Hirono
Berkley	Davis, Tom	Hobson
Berman	Deal (GA)	Hodes
Berry	DeFazio	Hoekstra
Biggert	DeGette	Holden
Bilbray	DeLauro	Holt
Billirakis	Dent	Hooley
Bishop (NY)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hoyer
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hunter
Blackburn	Dicks	Inglis (SC)
Blumenauer	Dingell	Inslee
Blunt	Doggett	Israel
Boehner	Donnelly	Issa
Bonner	Doolittle	Jackson (IL)
Bono Mack	Doyle	Jackson-Lee
Boozman	Drake	(TX)
Boren	Dreier	Johnson (GA)
Boswell	Duncan	Johnson (IL)
Boucher	Edwards	Johnson, E. B.
Boustany	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Boyd (FL)	Ellison	Jones (NC)
Boyd (KS)	Ellsworth	Jones (OH)
Brady (TX)	Emanuel	Jordan
Braley (IA)	Emerson	Kagen
Brown (GA)	Engel	Kanjorski
Brown (SC)	Eshoo	Kaptur
Brown-Waite,	Etheridge	Keller
Ginny	Everett	Kennedy
Buchanan	Fallin	Kildee
Burgess	Farr	Kilpatrick
Burton (IN)	Feeney	Kind
Calvert	Ferguson	King (IA)
Camp (MI)	Filner	King (NY)
Campbell (CA)	Flake	Kingston
Cannon	Forbes	Kirk
Cantor	Fossella	Klein (FL)
Capito	Foster	Kline (MN)
Capps	Fox	Knollenberg
Cardoza	Frank (MA)	Kucinich
Carnahan	Franks (AZ)	Kuhl (NY)
Carney	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Carson	Gallely	Lamborn
Carter	Garrett (NJ)	Langevin
Castle	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Castor	Giffords	Larson (CT)
Chabot	Gillibrand	Latham
Chandler	Gingrey	LaTourette
Clarke	Gonzalez	Latta
Clay	Goode	Lee
Cleaver	Goodlatte	Levin
Clyburn	Gordon	Lewis (CA)
Coble	Granger	Lewis (GA)
Cohen	Graves	Lewis (KY)
Cole (OK)	Green, Al	Linder

Lipinski	Ortiz	Sires
Loeb sack	Pallone	Skelton
Lofgren, Zoe	Pastor	Slaughter
Lowe y	Pearce	Smith (NE)
Lucas	Pence	Smith (NJ)
Lungren, Daniel	Perlmutter	Smith (TX)
E.	Peterson (MN)	Snyder
Lynch	Petri	Souder
Mahoney (FL)	Pitts	Space
Maloney (NY)	Platts	Speier
Manzullo	Poe	Spratt
Marchant	Pomeroy	Stark
Markey	Porter	Stearns
Marshall	Price (GA)	Stupak
Matheson	Price (NC)	Sullivan
Matsui	Putnam	Sutton
McCarthy (CA)	Rahall	Tancredo
McCarthy (NY)	Ramstad	Tanner
McCaull (TX)	Rangel	Tauscher
McCollum (MN)	Regula	Taylor
McCotter	Rehberg	Terry
McCrery	Reichert	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Reyes	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reynolds	Thornberry
McHenry	Rodriguez	Tiahrt
McHugh	Rogers (AL)	Tiberi
McIntyre	Rogers (KY)	Tierney
McKeon	Rogers (MI)	Towns
McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Udall (NM)
Rodgers	Roskam	Upton
McNerney	Ross	Van Hollen
McNulty	Rothman	Velázquez
Meeks (NY)	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
Melancon	Royce	Walberg
Mica	Ruppersberger	Walden (OR)
Michaud	Ryan (OH)	Walsh (NY)
Miller (FL)	Ryan (WI)	Walz (MN)
Miller (MI)	Salazar	Wamp
Miller (NC)	Sali	Wasserman
Miller, Gary	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Miller, George	T.	Waters
Mitchell	Sanchez, Loretta	Watson
Mollohan	Sarbanes	Watt
Moore (KS)	Saxton	Waxman
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Welch (VT)
Moran (KS)	Schiff	Weller
Murphy (CT)	Schmidt	Westmoreland
Murphy, Patrick	Scott (GA)	Wexler
Murphy, Tim	Scott (VA)	Whitfield (KY)
Murtha	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (OH)
Musgrave	Serrano	Wilson (SC)
Myrick	Sessions	Wittman (VA)
Nadler	Sestak	Wolf
Napolitano	Shadegg	Woolsey
Neugebauer	Shea-Porter	Wu
Nunes	Sherman	Wynn
Oberstar	Shimkus	Yarmuth
Obey	Shuler	Young (AK)
Oliver	Simpson	

## NOT VOTING—51

Allen	Gutierrez	Radanovich
Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Renzi
Becerra	Honda	Richardson
Bishop (GA)	Hulshof	Rohrabacher
Brady (PA)	Jefferson	Rush
Brown, Corrine	Lampson	Schwartz
Butterfield	LoBiondo	Shays
Buyer	Mack	Shuster
Capuano	Meek (FL)	Smith (WA)
Culberson	Moran (VA)	Solis
Davis, Lincoln	Neal (MA)	Tsongas
Delahunt	Pascrell	Turner
English (PA)	Paul	Udall (CO)
Fattah	Payne	Weiner
Fortenberry	Peterson (PA)	Weldon (FL)
Gilchrest	Pickering	Wilson (NM)
Gohmert	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)

□ 1858

Mr. TERRY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## NATIONAL GLANZMANN'S THROMBASTHENIA AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 994, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]

## YEAS—377

Abercrombie	Crenshaw	Herseth Sandlin
Ackerman	Crowley	Higgins
Aderholt	Cubin	Hill
Akin	Cuellar	Hinchee
Alexander	Cummings	Hinojosa
Altmire	Davis (AL)	Hirono
Arcuri	Davis (CA)	Hobson
Baca	Davis (IL)	Hodes
Bachmann	Davis (KY)	Hoekstra
Bachus	Davis, David	Holden
Baird	Davis, Tom	Holt
Baldwin	Deal (GA)	Hooley
Barrett (SC)	DeFazio	Hoyer
Barrow	DeGette	Hunter
Bartlett (MD)	DeLauro	Inglis (SC)
Barton (TX)	Dent	Inslee
Bean	Diaz-Balart, L.	Israel
Berkley	Diaz-Balart, M.	Issa
Berman	Dicks	Jackson (IL)
Berry	Dingell	Jackson-Lee
Biggert	Doggett	(TX)
Bilbray	Donnelly	Johnson (GA)
Billirakis	Doolittle	Johnson (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Bishop (UT)	Drake	Johnson, Sam
Blackburn	Dreier	Jones (NC)
Blumenauer	Duncan	Jones (OH)
Blunt	Edwards	Jordan
Boehner	Ehlers	Kagen
Bonner	Ellison	Kanjorski
Bono Mack	Ellsworth	Kaptur
Boozman	Emanuel	Keller
Boren	Emerson	Kennedy
Boswell	Engel	Kildee
Boucher	Eshoo	Kilpatrick
Boustany	Etheridge	Kind
Boyd (FL)	Everett	King (IA)
Boyda (KS)	Fallin	King (NY)
Brady (TX)	Farr	Kingston
Braley (IA)	Feeney	Kirk
Broun (GA)	Ferguson	Klein (FL)
Brown (SC)	Filner	Kline (MN)
Brown-Waite,	Flake	Knollenberg
Ginny	Forbes	Kucinich
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Kuhl (NY)
Burgess	Fossella	LaHood
Burton (IN)	Foster	Lamborn
Calvert	Fox	Langevin
Camp (MI)	Frank (MA)	Larsen (WA)
Campbell (CA)	Franks (AZ)	Larson (CT)
Cannon	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Cantor	Gallely	LaTourette
Capito	Garrett (NJ)	Latta
Capps	Gerlach	Lee
Cardoza	Giffords	Levin
Carnahan	Gillibrand	Lewis (CA)
Carter	Gingrey	Lewis (GA)
Castle	Gonzalez	Lewis (KY)
Castor	Goode	Linder
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lipinski
Chandler	Gordon	Loeb sack
Clarke	Granger	Lofgren, Zoe
Clay	Graves	Lowe y
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lucas
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lungren, Daniel
Coble	Grijalva	E.
Cohen	Hall (NY)	Lynch
Cole (OK)	Hall (TX)	Mahoney (FL)
Conaway	Hare	Maloney (NY)
Conyers	Harman	Manzullo
Cooper	Hastings (WA)	Marchant
Costa	Hayes	Markey
Costello	Heller	Marshall
Courtney	Hensarling	Matheson
Cramer	Herger	Matsui

McCarthy (CA) Pomeroy  
 McCarthy (NY) Porter  
 McCaul (TX) Price (GA)  
 McCollum (MN) Price (NC)  
 McCotter Putnam  
 McCrery Rahall  
 McDermott Ramstad  
 McGovern Rangel  
 McHenry Regula  
 McHugh Rehberg  
 McIntyre Reichert  
 McKeon Reyes  
 McMorris Reynolds  
 Rodgers Rodriguez  
 McNerney Rogers (AL)  
 McNulty Rogers (KY)  
 Meeks (NY) Rogers (MI)  
 Melancon Ros-Lehtinen  
 Mica Roskam  
 Michaud Ross  
 Miller (FL) Rothman  
 Miller (MI) Roybal-Allard  
 Miller (NC) Royce  
 Miller, Gary Ruppertsberger  
 Miller, George Ryan (OH)  
 Mitchell Ryan (WI)  
 Mollohan Salazar  
 Moore (KS) Sali  
 Moore (WI) Sánchez, Linda  
 Moran (KS) T.  
 Murphy (CT) Sanchez, Loretta  
 Murphy, Patrick Sarbanes  
 Murphy, Tim Saxton  
 Musgrave Schakowsky  
 Myrick Schiff  
 Nadler Schmidt  
 Napolitano Scott (GA)  
 Neugebauer Scott (VA)  
 Nunes Sensenbrenner  
 Oberstar Serrano  
 Obey Sessions  
 Olver Sestak  
 Ortiz Shadegg  
 Pallone Shea-Porter  
 Pastor Sherman  
 Pearce Shimkus  
 Pence Shuler  
 Perlmutter Simpson  
 Peterson (MN) Sires  
 Petri Skelton  
 Pitts Slaughter  
 Platts Smith (NE)  
 Poe Smith (NJ)

## NOT VOTING—54

Allen Gutierrez  
 Andrews Hastings (FL)  
 Becerra Honda  
 Bishop (GA) Hulshof  
 Brady (PA) Jefferson  
 Brown, Corrine Lampson  
 Butterfield LoBiondo  
 Buyer Mack  
 Capuano Meek (FL)  
 Carney Moran (VA)  
 Carson Murtha  
 Culberson Neal (MA)  
 Davis, Lincoln Pascrell  
 Delahunt Paul  
 English (PA) Payne  
 Fattah Peterson (PA)  
 Gilchrest Pickering  
 Gohmert Pryce (OH)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on the vote.

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PLAIN LANGUAGE IN GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill, H.R. 3548, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 1, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

YEAS—376

Abercrombie Davis (AL)  
 Ackerman Davis (CA)  
 Aderholt Davis (IL)  
 Akin Davis (KY)  
 Alexander Davis, David  
 Altmire Davis, Tom  
 Arcuri Deal (GA)  
 Baca DeFazio  
 Bachmann DeGette  
 Bachus DeLauro  
 Baird Dent  
 Baldwin Diaz-Balart, L.  
 Barrett (SC) Diaz-Balart, M.  
 Barrow Dicks  
 Bartlett (MD) Dingell  
 Barton (TX) Doggett  
 Bean Donnelly  
 Berkley Doolittle  
 Berman Doyle  
 Berry Drake  
 Biggert Dreier  
 Bilbray Duncan  
 Bilirakis Edwards  
 Bishop (NY) Ehlers  
 Bishop (UT) Ellison  
 Blackburn Ellsworth  
 Blumenauer Emanuel  
 Blunt Emerson  
 Boehner Engel  
 Bonner Eshoo  
 Bono Mack Etheridge  
 Boozman Everett  
 Boren Fallin  
 Boswell Farr  
 Boucher Feeney  
 Boustany Ferguson  
 Boyd (FL) Filner  
 Boyda (KS) Forbes  
 Brady (TX) Fortenberry  
 Braley (IA) Fossella  
 Broun (GA) Foster  
 Brown (SC) Foxx  
 Brown-Waite, Frank (MA)  
 Ginny Franks (AZ)  
 Buchanan Frelinghuysen  
 Burgess Gallegly  
 Burton (IN) Garrett (NJ)  
 Calvert Gerlach  
 Camp (MI) Giffords  
 Campbell (CA) Gillibrand  
 Cannon Gingrey  
 Cantor Gonzalez  
 Capito Goode  
 Capps Goodlatte  
 Cardoza Gordon  
 Carnahan Granger  
 Carney Graves  
 Carson Green, Al  
 Carter Green, Gene  
 Castle Grijalva  
 Castor Hall (NY)  
 Chabot Hall (TX)  
 Clarke Hare  
 Clay Harman  
 Cleaver Hastings (WA)  
 Clyburn Hayes  
 Coble Heller  
 Cohen Hensarling  
 Cole (OK) Herger  
 Conaway Herseth Sandlin  
 Conyers Higgins  
 Cooper Hill  
 Costa Hinchey  
 Costello Hinojosa  
 Courtney Hirono  
 Cramer Hobson  
 Crenshaw Hodes  
 Crowley Hoekstra  
 Cubin Holden  
 Cuellar Holt  
 Cummings Hooley

Miller (FL)  
 Miller (MI)  
 Miller (NC)  
 Miller, Gary  
 Miller, George  
 Mitchell  
 Mollohan  
 Moore (KS)  
 Moore (WI)  
 Moran (KS)  
 Murphy (CT)  
 Murphy, Patrick  
 Murphy, Tim  
 Musgrave  
 Myrick  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neugebauer  
 Nunes  
 Oberstar  
 Obey  
 Olver  
 Ortiz  
 Pallone  
 Pastor  
 Pearce  
 Pence  
 Perlmutter  
 Peterson (MN)  
 Petri  
 Pitts  
 Platts  
 Poe  
 Pomeroy  
 Porter  
 Price (GA)  
 Price (NC)  
 Putnam  
 Rahall  
 Ramstad  
 Rangel  
 Regula  
 Rehberg  
 Reichert  
 Reyes  
 Reynolds  
 Rodriguez  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rogers (MI)  
 Ros-Lehtinen  
 Roskam  
 Ross  
 Rothman  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Royce  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Ryan (OH)  
 Ryan (WI)  
 Salazar  
 Sali  
 Sánchez, Linda  
 T.  
 Sanchez, Loretta  
 Sarbanes  
 Saxton  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schmidt  
 Scott (GA)  
 Scott (VA)  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Serrano  
 Sessions  
 Sestak  
 Shadegg  
 Shea-Porter  
 Sherman  
 Shimkus  
 Shuler  
 Simpson  
 Sires  
 Skelton  
 Slaughter  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (TX)  
 Snyder  
 Souder  
 Souder  
 Space  
 Speier  
 Spratt  
 Stark  
 Stearns  
 Stupak  
 Sullivan  
 Sutton  
 Tancred  
 Tanner  
 Tauscher  
 Taylor  
 Terry  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thornberry  
 Tiahrt  
 Tiberi  
 Tierney  
 Towns  
 Udall (NM)  
 Upton  
 Van Hollen  
 Velázquez  
 Visclosky  
 Walden (OR)  
 Walz (MN)  
 Wamp  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson  
 Watt  
 Waxman  
 Welch (VT)  
 Weller  
 Westmoreland  
 Wexler  
 Whitfield (KY)  
 Wilson (OH)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman (VA)  
 Wolf  
 Woolsey  
 Wu  
 Wynn  
 Yarmuth  
 Young (AK)

NAYS—1

Flake

NOT VOTING—54

Allen Hastings (FL)  
 Andrews Honda  
 Becerra Hulshof  
 Bishop (GA) Hunter  
 Brady (PA) Jefferson  
 Brown, Corrine Lampson  
 Butterfield LoBiondo  
 Buyer Mack  
 Capuano Marchant  
 Chandler Meek (FL)  
 Culberson Moran (VA)  
 Davis, Lincoln Murtha  
 Delahunt Neal (MA)  
 English (PA) Pascrell  
 Fattah Paul  
 Gilchrest Payne  
 Gohmert Peterson (PA)  
 Gutierrez Pickering

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 183 and 184, and “nay” on rollcall vote 185.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on April 14, 2008, I missed 3 recorded votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on recorded vote number 183, "yea" on recorded vote 184, and "yea" on recorded vote 185.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1119. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858.

## RECOGNIZING DAVIDSON COLLEGE WILDCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS SEASON

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Davidson College, President Tom Ross, Coach Bob McKillop, and the Davidson College Wildcats men's basketball team, which had one remarkable basketball season. Davidson College is one of a number of outstanding colleges and universities in my congressional district. The Wildcats basketball team finished its regular season undefeated in the Southern Conference, won the Southern Conference tournament, and went on to their third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

In the NCAA tournament, Davidson College delivered three stunning upsets, eliminating the Gonzaga Bulldogs, the Georgetown Hoyas, and the Wisconsin Badgers on their way to the Elite Eight. In the Midwest regional finals, the Wildcats gave a tremendous effort before ultimately falling to Kansas by 2 points. Kansas, of course, went on to win the National Championship. By any measure Davidson College was the Cinderella team of this year's NCAA tournament.

In a fitting tribute to his coaching and leadership, Coach Bob McKillop re-

ceived the Coach Clair Bee Award on April 7, honoring the NCAA Division I men's basketball coach who has made the most significant positive contribution to the sport during the year.

I wish Coach McKillop and his Cinderella Davidson Wildcats continued success. I am fortunate to represent Davidson College and their outstanding scholars and athletes in Congress. We'll be back next year.

## WELCOME POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, tomorrow Pope Benedict XVI will make his first papal visit to the United States of America. This is an exciting time for America and the over 64 million American Catholics to celebrate the relationship between our Nation and The Vatican and our continued work towards peace and humanitarian needs around the world.

During his trip, the Pope will visit New York City and Washington, D.C., where he will attend Mass at Nationals Park and Yankee Stadium, visit the World Trade Center site, and attend ceremonies and meetings at the White House with President George W. Bush. As an extraordinary sign of respect, the President will welcome the Pope at Andrew's Air Force Base in Maryland and escort him to the White House. Pope Benedict is just the third Pope to visit the United States, and this visit marks the 25th meeting between a sitting President and a Pope.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, I welcome Pope Benedict to the United States. I hope his visit will be a positive reminder of the importance of our relationships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

Welcome Michael McCrory Wilson, who was born on April 11, 2008, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia, South Carolina.

## SALUTING "HOMES FOR HOMETOWN HEROES"

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm delighted to rise today to salute "Homes for Hometown Heroes."

Many of us, my colleagues and myself, Members from as far away as California and Arizona, had the privilege of being in Houston, Texas, last evening at the Hyatt Regency to celebrate a very unique and special program where our hometown heroes, injured soldiers, were able to receive their own home by the largess and generosity of many heroes in our community.

Madam Speaker, it's a moving experience to see our soldiers coming in in-

jured but yet strong and resilient. What a privilege to be able to present to them a key to their own home.

I look forward to working with this caucus, the Democratic Caucus, the Republican Conference, and all of our Members to spread this message across America. One has said that all of what they've done, they deserve to be respected and responded to, a home for the injured soldiers, brain damaged, those who cannot walk in wheelchairs, to simply say "thank you." I look forward to announcing a posttraumatic stress disorder center in my own 18th Congressional District.

Last evening reinforced the fact that nothing is too great for those who have put their lives on the front line. I look forward to celebrating the hometown heroes.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VICTIMS OF CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and in the criminal justice system, Madam Speaker, we've come a long way to the time that we recognize the importance of victims and honor them for a whole week.

Before I came to Congress, I was working in the District Attorney's office in Houston, Texas. That was even before I was a judge for 22 years. And I often reflect on one crime victim that taught me more about the way the world really is than maybe any other person.

Many years ago I had the opportunity to prosecute a case, and I'm going to change the names because the victim's family still lives in the Houston area and are concerned about their privacy.

This young lady was married and had two twin boys. And she had a good career. She was in her early 20s, and she was going to the University of Houston at night to get a second degree.

And one evening she was driving home, and she had car trouble. The lights came on in the dash of her vehicle. So she pulled over to a service station that she thought was open. But the service station was not open, it was closed.

She got out of the car, and she started talking to who she thought was a service station attendant. But the individual, Luke Johnson, was not a service station attendant. He was just hanging around. He pulled out a pistol. He kidnapped this young lady, Lisa,



and took her to a remote area in the piney woods of East Texas. He pistol whipped her. He sexually assaulted her, and he left her for dead. In fact, when he was later arrested, he was mad that he hadn't killed her.

But she was a remarkable young lady. She survived that brutal attack. Three or four days later, she was found in the woods by a hunter that was out there. Medical needs were met for her. She recovered that brutal attack. Luke Johnson was later captured and charged with aggravated sexual assault.

I was fortunate to prosecute that case. Lisa came and testified before a jury of 12 citizens of Houston, Texas. Luke Johnson was convicted. He received the maximum sentence of 99 years in the Texas State Penitentiary.

And, Madam Speaker, we would hope that all would be well with victims after that, that the world would go on and things would work out well. But that's not the world that we have ever lived in.

Lisa couldn't quite cope with being the victim of a crime. She never went back to that campus at the University of Houston. You can understand why. She couldn't hold a job. In fact, she was fired from her job because she couldn't focus. She started abusing drugs, first alcohol and then probably everything else that she could get her hands on.

Her husband, the kind of guy that he was, no longer wanted her, sued her for divorce, and was able to convince a judge in Houston that he should obtain both of the twin boys, and he left the State of Texas for good, claiming that she was not mentally capable to raise those two children.

And soon after that occurrence, I received a phone call from Lisa's mother telling me that she had received a note from her daughter saying that she was going to take her life. And she did. And I have that note with me today. I've always had that ever since this crime occurred, all the years I was a judge, and I have it in my office here in Congress, saying that she was tired of running from Luke Johnson in her nightmares.

She paid the ultimate price for being a crime victim, Madam Speaker. And because of the fact in those days there was no victim advocate, there was no one that she could turn to, she felt alone. She was alone, Madam Speaker.

But the criminal justice system in this country has come a long way. We have victims' advocates, who take care of the needs of victims, all the way from the time the crime is committed, through the trial, and after the trial. And we have people in the medical profession that donate their time to help in the recovery of crime victims. And now we have in the United States Congress a Victims' Rights Caucus. I'm proud to be the founder of that, but it's a bipartisan caucus. Jim Costa from California, a Democrat, is the co-chairman of this caucus. We have over 44 members, of Members of both parties,

who seek and advocate rights of crime victims here in the United States House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, we have come a long way. But we have a long way to go because crime victims are real people. Crime doesn't discriminate based on race, age, sex, or economic status. Crime affects so many people through this country. And we, as good neighbors, need to make sure that we keep up with people who have had that unfortunate experience of being a crime victim, especially of a violent crime. Because the same Constitution that protects the rights of criminal defendants protects the rights of crime victims. And we should always seek justice because justice is what we do in this country. And that means that we must always have justice for victims as well.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1930

#### IRAQ'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, as we enter the sixth year of the seemingly endless occupation of Iraq, the International Committee of the Red Cross published a worrying report about the State of the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

In its entitled "Iraq: No Let-Up in the Humanitarian Crisis," the publication shows just how far we need to go to meet the most basic needs of the Iraqi people. Despite the rosy picture being painted by some in the administration, too many Iraqis are still without health care, clean water, and/or education.

And many families have been torn apart by the civil war wracking the country. Family members have gone missing or have been killed. Some have been shipped off to detention centers.

Estimates range on how many people, mostly men, have been locked up. According to the Red Cross, "Tens of thousands of Iraqis, almost all of them men, are currently in detention often far from their homes."

One camp is situated in the southern part of the country near Basra and is managed by the United States-led multinational forces in Iraq. At the same time, this is the largest detention facility in the country. And there are more than 20,000 inmates in that detention camp.

The situation means that many families have lost their breadwinner. The new heads of household, many women and many children, have to cope in a world that seems to be without home or promise for the future. And their day-to-day life is just as bleak.

Instead of improving, the supply of electricity has become even more unreliable. Because of this, water sanitation plants are breaking down and hos-

pitals find they cannot provide adequate care, even if they had the medical supplies to meet the demand, which they very seldom do.

Parents the world over, Madam Speaker, American, Iraqi, or anywhere else, only want the best for their children. They want their kids to be happy. They want them to be healthy. They want their kids to go to school, to grow up and to have a chance to achieve their dreams. That is why ongoing occupation is about more than statistics or numbers.

The Red Cross reports helps to put a human face on the administration's so-called foreign policy. One such story actually highlights the struggle faced by too many. Here is Ruba's story. She says, "My children and I left my home in Anbar province almost 2 years ago. My husband had been killed right in front of us." She continues, "I had to protect my children, so we fled the same night with nothing but some money. For me, today, there is no past, there is no future, only a horrible present. I only wish I had some photos of my husband, photos of my family. I can see it all in my mind, but I don't know for how long I will remember. There was a time when we always sat down together for lunch and laughed. Today, we are living with my cousin's family."

She goes on to say, "There are 12 of us in one room. I don't want my old life again, because I know it is impossible without my husband. All I want is for my children to go to school and lead a normal life."

The story of this mother, Madam Speaker, a woman just 38 years old, is heartbreaking. We have a solemn obligation to help the Iraqi people achieve a future that is both secure and stable.

In the 5 minutes we stand here to deliver our special order speeches, the administration spends over \$1 million to prolong the endless occupation. I think the people of America could find a better way to show our commitment to the Iraqi people.

The American people's generosity and commitment to humanitarian assistance is boundless. But our patience with this administration's foreign policy follies is actually not boundless. This Congress must stand up to the administration. We must say "no" to a blank check. Let us redirect our resources to where they are really needed, towards aid, not ammunition.

#### UNJUST PROSECUTION AND IMPRISONMENT OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS COMPEAN AND RAMOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is day 453 of a terrible injustice in America. Two U.S. border agents, Agents Compean and Ramos, have been languishing in Federal prison since January 17 of 2007.

These men did their job to protect our Nation from an illegal alien, a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our border into Texas. Yet through a questionable prosecution, these two men were convicted for defending themselves and defending our border.

It is a sad day that such a travesty of justice could happen to two Hispanic Americans who loved America so much that they were willing to become law enforcement officers, and in this case Border Patrol agents, in order to protect America. Despite the efforts of the American people and Members of Congress, who have brought this to the attention of the White House, nothing, and I say nothing, has been done to reverse this injustice.

While outside groups and Members of Congress have filed court briefs to support these agents, we still anxiously await a decision in their appeal. The more time these men spend in prison and the longer it takes for a decision on their appeal, the more frustrated the American people become.

The American people have not forgotten agents Ramos and Compean. From time to time, I still hear from constituents who are frustrated that these men are still in prison. The only glimmer of hope for these agents and their families rests with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. During an oral argument on December 3, 2007, one of the judges considering the case, Judge E. Grady Jolly said, and I quote, Madam Speaker, and this is his quote, "It does seem to me that the government overreacted here. For some reason, this one got out of hand." That is a Federal judge that made that comment.

A ruling on their appeal is now expected any day, and millions of Americans are hopeful that the Court of Appeals will reverse this terrible injustice.

Madam Speaker, I still call on Chairman JOHN CONYERS to hold a hearing to review this unjust prosecution some time before the end of the year. Chairman CONYERS is a fair-minded person for whom I have great respect. Justice is crying out for his help.

And Madam Speaker, before I close, I want the Ramos and Compean family to know that there are those in both parties in this House of Representatives that are not going to sit back and wait until this injustice is corrected because these two border agents deserve nothing but praise for what they have done for this great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### OIL EXPORTS FROM COLOMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the papers back home tell the story: 25 firefighter jobs advertised, thousands of applicants. Bass Pro Sporting Goods building a new store, 300 jobs, 13,000 applicants, and the applications keep coming in. Yet the Bush administration last week sent Congress another job-killing NAFTA-like trade pact, this time for the South American nation of Colombia.

But why Colombia? And why now? The answer to both questions, in a word, is oil. Rather than paying attention to what is happening in this country, again, the Bush administration is focused to a new set of global oil deposits.

Why Colombia? In the big picture of global trade, Colombia is relatively insignificant to the United States. So why would the Bush administration make it a top priority in the final year of his presidency? Because oil represents more than half of Colombia's exports to the United States. And nothing drives Bush administration policy more than oil.

Ten years ago, Colombia wasn't even exporting oil. It was an oil-importing country. But with the Middle East in turmoil, the Bush administration, like the Clinton administration before it, is doing everything it can to make Colombia safe for oil exports to us. At a time when U.S. relations with Venezuela, South America's leading oil producer, have dropped to an all-time low, Colombia has emerged as the continent's fourth leading supplying supplier.

A decade ago, as I mentioned, Colombia was an oil-importing nation. Now, multinational oil companies have made huge investments because of tax favorability in the area of a giant, crescent-shaped, underocean oil field that stretches from Colombia to Peru. This trade agreement is not about cocoa. It is not about coal. It is not about cut flowers. This is an agreement about oil.

Buying oil from Colombia piles more oil trade deficit on top of the \$800 billion overall trade deficit our Nation has wracked up with nations all over the world. We continue to export jobs at an accelerating rate and import more and more and more from abroad with oil leading the way by far the number one category in the red.

As in Middle East, the United States government is pouring billions of dollars into Colombia in the form of military and foreign aid in order to protect the oil companies' investments.

Why now? Because the United States is being forced by political realities to relocate its sole defense base in Latin America out of Ecuador, whose president wants it removed from there. And by contrast, the Uribe government in Colombia has welcomed U.S. military involvement, seeing an opportunity to court favor with the Bush administration and the military protection that aid provides for oil exports. Only Israel

and Egypt receive more military assistance from the United States.

According to Amnesty International, which opposes military aid to Colombia until human rights concerns are addressed, the U.S. contributes approximately \$750 million, a quarter of \$1 billion, each year. It is estimated that our country has sent Colombia more than \$5 billion under the guise of Plan Colombia, with most of the assistance going to the military and police.

These parallels with the Middle East are troubling. In both regions, the United States risks its reputation with the "people on the street" by mixing economic designs on resources not belonging to us, and then moving defense assets to protect that interest.

Yes, average Americans are justifiably upset over rising prices at the pump. A gallon of gasoline now costs as much or more than a gallon of milk. Think about that. But surely the answer to this predicament is not to increase our oil dependence on Colombia. If our citizens saw how our America has dedicated its military assets to back up that oil flow owned by private interests, they would be really enraged. In Latin America, the United States is viewed as anything but the "Sweet Land of Liberty."

As in the Middle East, public opinion throughout Latin America has turned strongly negative toward the United States. People to our south view the Bush administration's policies as concerned only with the wealthiest segments of society or their American investment partners and essentially apathetic about democracy for the average person. To achieve the real Alliance For Progress envisioned by John F. Kennedy, our policies should promote democracy and cooperation, not resource exploitation.

Why would our government tether itself to a regime that has tolerated the murder of thousands of labor leaders, more than the rest of the countries of the world combined? Already this year, 17 more labor leaders have been assassinated in Colombia. The Bush administration's failure to cure America's oil addiction is no reason to overlook the crimes of impunity that are being committed regularly against organized labor in Colombia.

Once again, however, our foreign policy is being held hostage to the demands of an oil-based economy. Haven't we moved beyond the 20th century? The issue is not the U.S. trade relationship with Colombia, but the failure of the Bush administration to make our economy more stable at home by pursuing the important goal of energy independence.

Our national leaders should wake up and move us to freedom from imported petroleum. This is a national imperative as serious as our Nation has ever faced. We don't need Colombian oil now. We need energy independence here at home.

□ 1945

## SUPPORTING COLOMBIA, AMERICA'S BEST FRIEND IN LATIN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express concern about an action taken by the majority of this House this past week.

When the question is often asked, who is America's best friend in Latin America, no matter where you are in Latin America, they always say the democratically-elected government of Colombia is America's best friend.

This last week, the House of Representatives voted to turn its back on America's best friend. At a time when the autocrats threaten democracy, when democracy is at risk in Latin America by those who threaten it, such as the President of Venezuela, this Congress, this House, voted to turn its back on Latin America's oldest democracy, America's best friend in Latin America.

If you think about it, who else is Colombia? Colombia is also America's most reliable and strongest partner when it comes to addressing terrorism and addressing narcotics. Colombia has been there.

President Uribe, the President of Colombia, today is the most popular elected President in the entire hemisphere. This Congress has a 15 percent approval rating with the American people. Fifteen, 1-5 percent. President Uribe has 80 percent approval ratings with his own people. Why? Because he was elected to reduce violence. He was elected to bring security to his country, and today 73 percent of the Colombian people have said in a recent opinion poll that they feel more secure in Colombia. Seventy-two percent in that same poll said they believe President Uribe is making progress and at the same time protecting human rights. So President Uribe has made tremendous progress.

Today, violence has been reduced, kidnapping is down, murder rates are down. In fact, it is safer to walk the streets of Bogota, Colombia, or Medellin, once known as the most dangerous city in all the world, than it is to walk the streets of Washington, DC.

President Uribe with Plan Colombia and the support of his own people has made tremendous progress. They are reliable partners, reliable friends. And last week this House voted to turn its back on the democratically-elected government of Colombia. Think what message that sends to Latin America, about how the United States House of Representatives respects and treats our friends in Latin America.

We have before us a trade promotion agreement with Colombia. It is a good agreement. My friend and colleague from Ohio says it is all about oil. We don't need a trade agreement to buy oil

from Colombia. In fact, right now Colombian products, manufactured goods and farm products enter the United States duty free. There are no taxes on their imports. But U.S. products, such as construction equipment, the bulldozers that could be used in mining and various other economic projects in Colombia, face 15 percent tariffs. Our corn and soybeans and livestock products face tariffs of up to 40 percent, but Colombian agricultural products enter the United States duty free. We need a trade promotion agreement with Colombia to even the playing field.

We often hear from folks back home, you know, we need trade agreements that are fair and where we treat each other equally, so if they get access to our market, we get access to their's. Well, under the status quo, they have that. We need this agreement so we get access to their market.

Some say Colombia is not very important. Well, there are 42 million people there. It is the second largest Spanish-speaking Nation in the world. It is America's best friend. But we have a good agreement before us.

Some have said we need to oppose this agreement because there has been violence against union activists. The Uribe government has acknowledged that. In fact, they have done some incredible things. They have increased the budget for prosecution of violent acts by 72 percent. They have added almost 2,200 prosecutors and lawyers and others for the Prosecutor General to go after those who commit violent crimes.

When it comes specifically to labor leaders in Colombia, as the Washington Post has pointed out, the murder rate for labor leaders in Colombia is actually lower than the national murder rate, and any murder is unacceptable, whether it is here in Washington, DC or Bogota.

The bottom line is, Colombia is our friend. This House voted to turn its back on our best friend. We need to move forward on the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. We should bring that forward and give our best friend in Latin America what they deserve. They have earned it.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WATT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN SCHIP BILL TO HELP WORKING AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in the well today to talk about an event that occurred last weekend on Saturday in Tolland, Connecticut, which is a suburban town about 20 miles east of Hartford.

The Connecticut State Dental Society held an open free clinic under a program called Mission of Mercy, which is a group of dentists around the country that organize operatories and equipment to go into communities and basically open the doors and say anybody who needs dental care, come and we will take care of you. The advertising for this event in Connecticut was modest. There were some TV public service announcements, there were some small notices in the press.

The Dental Society had organized about 180 dentists, a number of hygienists and staff to be with the group that morning. Much to their amazement, people started lining up for this event at 6 o'clock the prior evening, Friday evening, and by 4 o'clock in the morning, when the dentists actually arrived to start setting up the operation, there were already 350 people waiting in line to get their care. By 5 o'clock in the morning, the crowd had grown to the point where the Connecticut State Police had to come out and actually turn people away.

At about 5:30 in the morning, the heavens opened up. There was thunder, lightning, and it rained, it was pouring rain, hard rain on the crowd, and none would leave, because they were terrified of losing their place in line and being deprived of the opportunity to get an extraction, to get a filling, to get their teeth cleaned, because they were so desperate to get dental care. Looking at the pictures in the press the following day of people literally huddled in the rain waiting to try and get an opportunity to get their teeth taken care of, it really made you wonder what country are we living in.

Tolland, Connecticut, where this is being held, is suburban Connecticut. This is not a distressed area. This is not an urban area with large pockets of chronic poverty. It is a suburban area with working families and working individuals who definitely earn a paycheck and provide a standard of living that would be described as middle class for themselves and their families. But when I joined the dental clinic later in the day around 1 o'clock in the afternoon, 800 people were at that point lined up to be served. They had turned away hundreds of others. People were waiting in the stands of a gymnasium, waiting for an opportunity to get their teeth taken care of.

Now, why am I talking about this on the floor of the United States Congress? The reason is because there is

legislation that has been sitting on the President's desk, the SCHIP bill, the children's health insurance extension, over which there has been a lot of fighting and debating going on in this Chamber over the last few months or so.

One of the overlooked parts of that legislation is that in addition to standardizing a 300 percent poverty threshold so that working families would have an opportunity to have their children covered by health insurance, it would also strengthen the dental coverage under the SCHIP program.

If you talk to any dentist or any healthcare provider in this country, they will tell you that under the existing SCHIP program, the dental coverage is inadequate. That is why in those stands in that high school gymnasium there were families with children who have never had their teeth cleaned, who needed in some instances to have their teeth extracted because of the fact that they have no other type of decent coverage for their dental care.

Unfortunately, President Bush has twice vetoed this legislation, legislation that has been endorsed by the March of Dimes, by the Catholic Hospital Association, by the American Medical Association, by the Pharmaceutical Association of America, a broad consensus of stakeholders in the healthcare system that have come together and said if there is one area of dispute that we ought to agree on as Americans, it is that children should have their health insurance covered. In particular, we should make that sure that oral and dental healthcare is done in a fashion to make sure they are going to have a lifetime of decent dental care. Because if you talk to anyone who is in pediatrics, they will tell you that dental care, dentistry care, is essential to making sure that a young person will grow and thrive.

Well, what we saw in Connecticut on Saturday is I think a perfect example of how broken the system is. What is frustrating to me, and I think so many others, is that we have an opportunity with a piece of legislation to make a real difference in the lives of young children in America, to make sure that they will not be stuck in the pouring rain and in thunder and lightning, so they can get access to what I think almost any reasonable person would describe as basic, fundamental, decent healthcare.

Madam Speaker, I have a copy of the Hartford Courant coverage of this extraordinary event that took place in Connecticut from the Sunday Hartford Courant edition which I am going to ask to be made part of the RECORD. I would just like to read the final passage of the article, which described a 67-year-old Stafford Springs woman, which is, again, a suburb of Connecticut.

"As she walked back to her parking lot with no umbrella, soaking wet from the rain, struggling to catch her breath

from the walk, the woman said she had come to get her tooth pulled, but already knew she would never get in. Like the others, she can't afford dental insurance." When she was asked what she was going to do, she said, "Just going to pray, I guess."

She should be able to ask for more than that. She should ask for real action by this Congress to pass healthcare legislation so that Americans will get the care they need.

Madam Speaker, I include the article for the RECORD.

[From Courant.com, April 13, 2008]

#### MANY TURNED AWAY FROM FREE DENTAL CARE CLINIC

(By Colin Poitras)

The line of taillights glowing in the pre-dawn darkness snaked back nearly a mile from the old Tolland High School on Saturday.

Closer to the school, people were walking along the side of the road, a steady stream of dark silhouettes rising out of the morning mist like refugees in a war zone.

There were elderly couples clutching their canes, hunched-over veterans, single mothers with young children in tow. A woman on crutches limping along.

It was 5 a.m., and they came by the hundreds, a throng of pilgrims with a common goal—free dental care.

Some heard about it on the radio, others saw it on TV or read about it in the newspaper. Connecticut's Mission of Mercy, the first ever single, large-scale free dental clinic to be offered in the state.

"This shows we have a broken system and have to find some way to correct it," said Dr. Bob Schreibman, a Glastonbury pediatric dentist and one of the Connecticut mission's organizers. "This is not a solution. This is a stop-gap measure to address people's immediate needs. This points out there is a huge need even in this, the richest state in the country."

Inside the school, more than 190 volunteer dentists were waiting along with 800 volunteers. Free fillings, check-ups, extractions. No questions asked.

The high school's cafeteria and gym were outfitted like a field hospital, with 60 dental chairs shipped in from the Midwest, portable X-ray machines and boxes upon boxes of latex gloves and sterilized dental tools.

The crush of patients was so large that by 7 a.m., people were being turned away.

When Carol Dingledey, executive director of the Connecticut State Dental Association, arrived to set up at 4 a.m., there were already 350 people outside the door. Some came the night before and camped out. Others drove hours in the dark hoping to be seen.

"It just goes to show you how many people don't have dental insurance," said Mary, a 70-year-old woman, standing in a line of about 100 people outside the school at 5:30 a.m.

Leaning on her cane, Mary, who didn't want to give her last name, said she spent her entire life working and raising nine children and grandchildren. Now on limited income, she can't afford dental insurance, never mind pay fees out of her pocket. She hasn't been to a dentist in eight years. Her teeth hurt. She needs a filling, and a cap had come off.

"I've never been on welfare; I've never had to struggle to get by," Mary said. "But here it is. This is the bottom of the line. I'm just trying to get by."

About a half-mile away in the parking lot of the new Tolland High School, where orga-

nizers had set up a shuttle parking area, Rhonda Slattery, 54, sat in her motorized wheelchair waiting for her husband, Joe. They had just finished the hourlong ride from Barkhamsted and weren't sure the school bus shuttling people to the make-shift clinic was handicapped accessible.

"I'm just amazed at the number of people here at this hour of the morning," said Rhonda Slattery, whose limited Social Security disability income makes it difficult for her to afford dental care.

As she spoke, the sky opened up and it started to rain. Hard.

Inside the school at 7 a.m., what could be the largest waiting room in Connecticut was packed to its 700-seat capacity. The auditorium was full of people: more retirees, working people, college kids, entire families. Some huddled under blankets. Others sat quietly, waiting for their number to be called, many of their faces swollen or creased in pain.

In the triage area just outside the auditorium, dentists peered into people's mouths with portable flashlights. Nurses and dental assistants hustled about—checking blood pressures, taking X-rays, injecting Novocain.

In the gymnasium, down the hall the high-pitched whine of dental drills floated above the crowd as dozens of dentists treated patients. Those awaiting care sat in the bleachers, then moved to metal folding chairs before reaching the dental chairs. A squad of stand-by dentists stood off to the side, scrubbed and ready, waiting to replace their peers when their hands cramped and they needed a break.

The two-day clinic opened at 5 and the work would not stop until 5 p.m. Today it continues from 5 a.m. to noon.

Sitting among the throng were Susan and Brian Boyce of Eastford, both 41, who came to the clinic with their seven children—from age 12 down to 11 months. (The baby was just along for the ride.) Brian is an executive director at the Porter and Chester Institute. Susan is a registered nurse who stays home with the kids.

But they don't have dental insurance and with annual dental check-ups costing more than \$1,000 a year, paying for even routine dental care is difficult, they said.

"The dentists don't take payment plans, they want the money up front, and that's a big chunk of money when you try to go every year," Susan said.

Shortly after 7 a.m. the clinic was maxed out. Organizers began turning people away at the door. The backlog was so deep that it would take the rest of the day just to treat those already there. Later in the morning, the clinic reopened briefly, and another 100 or so patients were let in. It abruptly closed again by 10 a.m.

For some, the clinic is a blessing, a reprieve from their aches and pain. But for those who didn't get inside, the struggle continues. Many in the pre-dawn dark turned back upon seeing the long line.

"It's pretty bad," said one 67-year-old Stafford Springs woman, as she walked back to the parking lot with no umbrella, soaking wet from the rain. Struggling to catch her breath from the walk, the woman said she had come to get her tooth pulled at 5 a.m. but already knew she'd never get in. Like the others, she can't afford dental insurance.

As she climbed into her car, the woman was asked what she was going to do. Water dripped off her hair as she wearily shook her head.

"Just going to pray, I guess."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 14, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,866 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard

this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,866 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 14, 2008—12,866 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

#### THE STATUS OF ENERGY IN THE WORLD TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, it was a pleasure to be down here listening to the special orders of my friends from the various States, and especially my friend from Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, and I understand his compassion and concern. But I will tell you that if we don't get a handle on these energy costs, people aren't going to have the money to do the things they want to do with their families on a day-to-day basis. So we have this time tonight to talk about energy and our energy status in the world today.

We started doing this last week on a bill that came to the floor that we are going to finish this week, the Beach Protection Act of 2007. We took that opportunity to talk about that. But we ought to be addressing some of the pressing concerns of this country today.

We hear the term that America, and rural America, is bitter. It is a big phrase today and over the weekend. They are bitter. They are bitter about high energy costs, and they are bitter about the fact that this Congress is not doing anything to address the supply part of this debate.

More supply means lower costs. That is basic economics 101. Anyone who has gone to have a bachelor's degree, and even some good high school programs teach economics, it is a simple supply and demand equation. So we are going to talk about energy tonight. My focus is going to be on supply, how we need more supply.

We also hear a lot this year about change. We want change, and everybody wants change. But, you know, change is not always good. Here is an example of change.

Since the Democrats got in the majority, when they first got sworn in, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58.31. Today, the price of a barrel of crude oil is \$111.15. I would say that is bad change. That is not good change. So change is not always good. This is negative change, and it flies in the face of promises from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

The Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI said on April 24, 2006, about 2 years ago, "Democrats have a common-sense plan to help bring down the skyrocketing gas prices." Well, that was almost \$60 a barrel less ago, and \$1 and change per gallon of gas less.

□ 2000

Majority leader STENY HOYER said, October 4, 2005, "Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices."

Well, they did. They did. What did they do? They raised their gas prices. You want to talk about not being able to pay for dental care? People are using their money to get to work.

In rural America, we drive long distances. Rural America doesn't have the access of buses. Rural America doesn't have the opportunity to take the Metro or light rail.

Those who are driving distances to get to work are harmed exponentially greater. Democrats proffered lower gas prices. What do we have? We have higher gas prices. All we are asking them to do is keep their prices. Help them lower the price of gasoline, but they won't do it. Do you know why they won't do it?

They won't do it because they really hate fossil fuels in this country. They hate crude oil, and they hate coal. They hate crude oil, and they hate coal.

They hate fossil fuels, so to address high prices, what we have to do is bring on more fossil fuels to the market, and they won't do it. That's why we are not going to have any relief on gases.

Constituents ask me, what are you going to do to lower prices? What are you going to do, Congress? I just shake my head, and I said the only thing that's going to happen is prices are going to go up because demand is going to continue to go up, supply is going to stay the same, and you are going to have higher prices.

Democrat Whip JIM CLYBURN, Democrat from South Carolina, said "House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices." Jim got it wrong. "No" is not an energy plan. They had no plan, and when you have no plan, you plan to fail, and what do you get? You get higher prices.

We know we are going to have \$4 a gallon gas this summer sometime. We know it. In fact, the newspapers are

starting to raise this issue, "\$4 gasoline seen possible this summer," the Buffalo News, April 9, 2008; price at the pump likely to reach \$4, the Washington Times, April 9, 2008; "\$4 Per Gallon Gas Creeps Closer," Fox News, Denver, Colorado, April 9.

We know we are going to have \$4 a gallon of gas. How do we stop that from happening? We have to bring on more supply. I have some friends here to join me, but I am going to finish with one solution that has bipartisan support, and that's coal-to-liquid technologies.

There are a lot of ways we can address this debate and this issue, but let me just pitch one to you. The Illinois Coal Basin, and I am from Illinois, I am biased, the Illinois Coal Basin is basically the State of Illinois and the southwestern part of Indiana and the western part of Kentucky. That's all a big coal field.

Under the ground there is as much fossil fuel energy in coal as Saudi Arabia has in oil, 250-year's worth. We have been mining and using it for generations. In fact, I am fourth-generation Lithuanian American. My great grandfather immigrated to my home town of Collinsville, Illinois, where I still live. What did he do? He worked in the coal mines. My grandfather worked in the coal mines.

In southern Illinois, we have coal mines and we have mine workers. We have an abundant natural resource.

Now, we know coal can be used to generate electricity, but I am not talking about generation of electricity right now. What I am talking about is liquid fuels, the stuff that we need to put in our cars so we can get to work. How do we lower the price of gasoline in this country? That's where coal-to-liquid technology comes in.

We also had these budget airlines, three of them went bankrupt, one is on the verge. What's one of the problems? The high cost of aviation fuel.

All those people are unemployed. They don't have a job. They are going to be a burden to the safety net. They are not going to have dental care which was provided by their employer. But now they are unemployed because of the high cost of jet fuel.

How do we bring liquid fuel back to the arena that the budget airlines and the soccer mom, who is shepherding those kids around in the minivan, can afford to do that. We bring on more supply. One option is to use our vast resources of coal in this country and use that technology that goes back to World War II, the Fischer-Tropsch technologies.

Synthetic fuel, Sasol, the South African oil company has been using it for decades. It just got permission to use synthetic aviation fuel for the British commercial air fleet.

We have not a single coal-to-liquid plant in this country. The premise is simple, you have a coal mine. This is surface mining, mostly western coal here. In Illinois it would be below surface.

At that location you build a coal-to-liquid refinery. First of all you have jobs, jobs in the coal mine. Then you have jobs that build a refinery. Then you have jobs to operate the coal mines and jobs to operate the refinery, good-paying jobs with good-paying benefits and dental care. Then you have a pipeline so you don't have to address the transportation of this fuel, and you pipe it to the major metropolitan areas of this country, or you pipe it to the air base.

You know the number one aviation fuel user in the world, you know who it is? Our United States Air Force. They are begging for this opportunity. They are held captives to imported crude oil and the high cost of jet fuel.

We can do it here. We know what Katrina did to the refineries in the gulf coast, it shut a couple of them down, causing price spikes, causing dislocations.

Well, what's the benefit of this technology? You don't have to have it on the gulf coast. You are not importing the crude oil. You can build one in southern Illinois. You could build one in Wyoming, in Montana. You could build one in Kentucky or Ohio or West Virginia, right where the coal is located, close to the pipeline that connects to our major metropolitan areas, available, low-cost fuel to turn into jet fuel, gasoline, aviation fuel, diesel fuel, things that are causing great concerns and problems in our country today.

We have got bills to do this. Many Members do. My bill, I am the primary cosponsor with Congressman RICK BOUCHER, a Democrat from Virginia, on a price-collar provision. There are provisions for long-term contracting. There are some other marketing provisions out there where we could do this, we could send a signal to industry.

We want to do this, we want to have these up and running in 5 years. We want to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil. We want to lower the cost of fuel. This Congress could do it. I guarantee you if we did it, this administration would sign the bill.

It's up to Democrats who made promises in 2006 that they had a plan to lower the price of gasoline. You read the quotes. I read the quotes to you, Madam Speaker.

You know the promises that were made. You know the promises that were not kept. In fact, not only were the promises not kept, we have done worse. You didn't lower the cost of fuel, we raised the cost of fuel. We didn't lower the price of a barrel of crude oil.

When Speaker PELOSI got sworn in, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58.31; today, \$111. Now I did this part of the speech last week, it was \$110. It has gone up \$1 just since Wednesday.

With that, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman GARRETT. I thank him for joining me. I yield you some time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

As I so often say when I come to the floor, in looking back 16 months, this country has been under the control of the Democrat-led Congress. What has those 16 months wrought? We have higher food prices, a recession now in the economy with which almost everyone agrees, even former Chairman Greenspan, housing prices basically in a free fall down and, of course, energy prices going through the roof.

You made a comment about gasoline prices being up to almost \$4 a gallon by the summer. Of course, diesel fuel already, in my neck of the woods, the great State of New Jersey, is at \$4 a gallon.

It amazes me each time I drive past the pump. I don't use diesel. Truckers most often do. Farming equipment on the farms do. Of course, I am amazed that people are still able to make a living.

But 16 months under a Democrat-controlled rule here in the House of Representatives, what has it wrought? We have higher food prices, a recession in the economy, free fall of the housing prices and energy prices through the roof, causing hardships for all Americans.

I come from the State of New Jersey. When I go home, I just went home for the weekend, and I talked to my friends and constituents back home. They are paying the price, at the pump, at the food store, everywhere, and it's creating a real hardship for the American family.

When the American family sits down each week and pays their bills, gets out their checkbook, and say how are we going to pay this month's mortgage payment, this month's rent payment, first they have to pay all of these other expenses.

At the end of the week, they realize the money is just not in the checkbook anymore. One of the root causes is the price of fuel. They are probably scratching their heads saying what is the Democrat-led majority in the House doing about it? Where is that plan that you were referring to that the Democrats campaigned on 18 months ago before they took over the majority? Where is that plan during these last 16 months now that they have been in the majority?

My constituents wait. You and I wait.

In the meantime, let's take a look at the facts. Democrats make all sorts of claims about the price of energy, about the price of gasoline prices. I would like to address just three or four of them.

First of all, one of the most frequent things, and you see hearings on this over and over, Democrats will say, well, it's because of America, it's because of those American oil companies that we have skyrocketing prices. Let's get into the facts a little bit about that, though. U.S. energy companies are not even in the top 10 when you look at total proven oil reserves and gas reserves in the entire world.



For example, ExxonMobil has less than 5 percent of the stock held by Saudi Aramco. A full 53 percent of the price we pay for gasoline when we go to the pump is related to the price of the crude oil that goes into it, a world commodity.

Can Democrats really accuse American oil companies of so influencing prices when they own such a marginally small amount of the total world supply? When we think about it, this is a part and parcel of the Democrat blame America first doctrine here too in energy.

Secondly, Democrats say that the U.S. needs to decrease demand for oil. We have to live more modestly, I guess, is what that really translates out to be.

It turns out the facts are this, in recent years U.S. American families' demand for oil and all its uses has actually begun to stabilize, and we have seen over a period of time an actual decrease in the amount of use. Meanwhile, world demand for oil has actually increased to 84 million barrels a year. That's an increase of 16 million barrels just over the last decade.

While we are willing and able and want to work with the other side of the aisle to come up with ways to conserve fuel, the facts point to the fact that we should not be blaming America first with regard to increased use of oil. But it's the rest of the world that is just increasing their consumption, which is a supply and demand factor.

Thirdly, Democrats are off to say that the Americans already have reliable access to energy supplies. Well, when we get into the facts, it refutes what the Democrats are saying.

The U.S., as a matter of fact, is the only, the only industrial Nation in the entire world that locks up 85 percent of its open available deep sea energy reserves. Let me repeat that number again, 85 percent of our reserves offshore and elsewhere are locked up. We can't get to them. You and I can't use them today, our children can't use them tomorrow, grandchildren in the future, they are locked up under their plan.

Even worse, we have not even built a new refinery in this country for the last 32 years. As a result of these factors, 63 percent of our energy supplies that we should be able to use right here in this country are obtained from foreign sources instead. The Democrat plan makes us even more reliant on foreign sources, those same foreign sources that are unreliable, unstable and oftentimes hostile to the United States as well.

□ 2015

Fourthly, Democrats claim that the Federal Government, the bureaucrats here in Washington, must micro-manage, if you will, and regulate these American oil companies. Again, what are the facts. The facts are that in 2007, these very same American oil companies and themselves spent \$183 billion in new investment. What does that do,

that leads to the development of more efficient environmental fuels on the market.

Meanwhile, the Democrat majority has voted to raise taxes four separate times just during the 110th Congress. I began my remarks asking what has 16 months under Democrat control wrought when it comes to this country, well, one point there is four separate times taxes have gone up during this Congress. And where does that end up being paid from? Well, tomorrow is April 15, tax day, and we know who pays. It comes down not on the corporations and big business, it is comes down on the consumer.

So soaring prices are the result of supply and demand, and the best approach to energy efficiency and cost reduction is one that is market based. The worst approach is no plan whatsoever, which is what we have seen by the other side of the aisle, and a lack of a plan that engages in such rhetoric as blame America first, restrict the development of efficient energy resources that are American based, and the worst plan is to make the United States and the citizens of this country even more reliant on those unstable and hostile regimes.

I thank the gentleman for coming to the floor tonight and reminding all of America about the dilemma that we face going in, both in the short term with the family budget today and the future, and the great need we have to have a plan put in place and implemented. I look forward to working with you to achieve such.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague for coming down to the floor. As he was speaking I was thinking, and of course I started by talking about two buzz words that are out there because of this politicized season. I think we need to merge them together.

What we have from the Democrat majority on energy policy is bitter change. Bitter change; \$58 a barrel for crude oil to \$111 per barrel of crude oil; \$2.40 for a gallon of gasoline to \$3.50. We have bitter change, not good change, bitter change because there is no energy policy.

First there are the grand promises made by the Democratic leadership which I quoted earlier and will probably quote again. No change, bad change, bitter change. It is unfortunate because it is our citizens who are feeling the burden.

I started this last week again during the healthy beaches discussion. It is amazing as I was looking at the stories over the weekend flying home and flying back today, a whole bunch of articles. "Truckers feel the crunch of high diesel prices." This one is better. "Independent truckers join strike." It has tractor-trailer rigs, shut them down, on strike. Try \$4 a gallon; bitter change to the independent truck driver. There is no energy policy. When you have no policy, you have a failed policy.

Another article, "High fuel prices mean high costs." There is a lot of

blame being given to the agricultural sector because of the high cost of food, but the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City said over the past three decades, rising labor and energy costs have boosted that share steadily from 67 percent in the 1970s to 80 percent today.

The Federal Reserve Bank also estimated that a 10 percent gain in energy prices could contribute to 5.2 percent increase in retail food prices. And, John Urbanchuk in an article "The Relative Impact of Corn and Energy Prices in the Grocery Aisle" on June 14, 2007, said rising energy prices had a more significant impact on food prices than did corn.

Bitter change; no energy plan. The Democrats failed to bring supply into the energy debate. We can pass efficiencies and renewables, but the reality is it is only nibbling around the edges. The Energy Information Agency projects a 30 percent increase in demand in electricity by 2030, a 30 percent demand increase. And we are nibbling around the edges. People think we are going to do it with solar panels and wind turbines. They can help. We would like to have them. In fact, I just heard Illinois is one of the largest States to try to employ wind power. But it is not going to meet our demand. Energy prices are going to go up, and when they do, the average American citizen, especially in rural America, pays a disproportionate burden because we have to travel long distances to go to work. We don't have the commuter rails and the bus services. What we have is our truck. And we like our trucks.

I am going to talk about electricity generation. I have spent a lot of time on liquid fuels, but I am joined by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) and so I yield to him at this time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I thank Congressman SHIMKUS, and I appreciate your leadership today and also on the Energy and Commerce Committee where Congressman SHIMKUS has worked hard on issues to help solve the problems in this country.

Congressman SHIMKUS, you are right. I didn't realize until you showed the chart, how much under Democratic leadership oil prices have gone up. It is staggering. And gas prices have gone up, too, under Democratic leadership in this Congress.

Congressman SHIMKUS knows, too, that we have tried very hard on the Energy and Commerce Committee to have rational, comprehensive solutions in this country. We had a bill recently where Congressman SHIMKUS tried to get some of his legislation into this bill that would have helped a great deal, the coal-to-liquids technology, and it was stifled. They wouldn't allow it in.

What kind of bill did we get. Congressman SHIMKUS is right, "no" is not an energy policy. We got no energy policy. We got a bill that was energy policy in name only.

What they did was they had those curly light bulbs with mercury from China in them and everybody is going to put the bulbs in their homes, and that is really going to help our energy solution. That is a step in the right direction, I guess, but it is not going to solve our problem.

Also they looked at efficiencies in our appliances, which is a good thing, but we need to go much, much further.

One of the things that Congressman SHIMKUS talked about is supply and demand, and that is what this is all about. We haven't built a refinery in this country in the last 30 years. Congressman GARRETT was talking about that. That is a problem. When all of our refineries are operating at maximum capacity, you can only get so much fuel out of them. We need more refineries in this country, and we can do it in an environmentally sound way.

Also, we need to spur domestic production, getting more oil, gas and coal in the United States instead of relying on countries, particularly in the Middle East, that we have been at war with recently. That is not a good idea. If it is in our backyard, let's get it here. Nobody wants to hurt the environment. Everybody wants to have clean air, water, and land. The oil, gas and coal companies do, too.

We also need in our energy policy to start looking at other energy sources as well. That is important, getting away from oil, gas and coal, but it is not going to be in the near future. It is a pure technology-driven issue. And we need alternative sources of energy. We need solar and wind. We need nuclear. We need alternative fuels. We need all of those things, but it is going to take time. You can't do it immediately. We need to develop those technologies to where they can be brought to the public, like batteries in cars developed to where people can afford them, and develop and use alternative energy sources. And we need to develop more gas and oil here in the United States.

You know, Cuba allows China to drill off the coast of Florida. Yet in the United States, we can't drill in a lot of places offshore here in the United States. We can't do it.

Also here in the United States there are areas where we can't explore in. We hear a lot about the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve. Let's develop that here in the United States. There is a vast quantity of oil in the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve. We can develop it in an environmentally sound way where it is not going to hurt some caribou or anything like that. The Alaskan pipeline, they said that was going to happen there, yet the caribou actually like the pipeline. They use it for shelter.

But if we develop the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve, let's put it in perspective. If ANWR were the size of a football field, the area we are talking about drilling in would be the size of a postage stamp on the football field. The footprint we drill in would be relatively small. Oil and gas companies

want to do it in an environmentally sound way. And some experts say we could produce at least 2 million barrels a day out of ANWR. We were importing almost that much from Saddam Hussein and Iraq before the war happened. We could lessen that.

It is ridiculous that we depend so much on countries that have been hostile to the United States on something that is so important.

But when we look at energy policy, we need to look at it from a multi-pronged approach. We need to look at all of the oil, gas and coal. They are here to stay for the time being. But we need to look at alternative energy sources as well. I think everybody agrees that is important.

We need real solutions. We need real energy policy in this country, and we are not getting it from the Democrat-controlled Congress. We have worked hard and Congressman SHIMKUS has worked hard in the committee to get these things done, but they stifle them every time. We need real solutions to real problems, and this is a problem that if we don't address relatively soon, it is going to come home to roost. It is a national security issue. We are putting ourselves in jeopardy, and it is wrong. It is the wrong thing to do.

Again, I commend Congressman SHIMKUS for all he does on the Energy and Commerce Committee and for doing this special order tonight.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague, and especially for again returning the focus to the national security dynamics of this.

The United States Air Force is the number one consumer of aviation fuel in the world. What are they asking for? They want a safe, reliable supply of aviation fuel. Reliable. The only way they are going to get a reliable supply of aviation fuel is if that aviation fuel is produced by a commodity product where we are not relying on importation. That goes back to this debate on coal-to-liquid technologies.

Again, just in the Illinois coal basin alone, 250 years worth, as much energy as Saudi Arabia has in crude oil, just the Illinois coal basin alone. We are not talking about the Wyoming-Montana coal basin or the West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky region. We are talking about the Illinois coal basin has as much energy as Saudi Arabia has in oil.

So as we go back to the coal-to-liquid debate and we are talking about national security, and we need to have the fuel to fly our war machines, coal, locally discovered, developed, brought to the surface, with a coal-to-liquid refinery, built by the building trades, operated by organized labor and our boilermaker friends, high-paying wages, good benefits, not on the coastal plain, in the Midwest, pipeline to, and this chart just happens to show an F-18 Tomcat, a United States Air Force fighter plane.

□ 2030

Our Air Force is asking for this for national security, a reliable source of jet fuel, and we continue to delay.

What's the other world doing? What's the other countries, other world doing?

Well, Russia is attempting to grab a vast chunk of the Arctic to claim to its vast potential oil, gas and mineral wells to fuel that country's economy. Russia's going after fossil fuels.

Well, what's our other friends doing?

Brazil, Russia, India and China have overtaken the United States in dominating the global energy industry, according to a study by Goldman Sachs.

What's the Chinese doing? China is building 40 nuclear plants in the next 15 years. 40. We'll be lucky to have one. One. No carbon emissions in a nuclear power plant. Zero.

I think that's the biggest frustration that a lot of us have from our friends on the environmental left. They don't like nuclear power. They don't like coal. They don't like crude oil. We're trying to find out what they like.

China is planning 40 nuclear power plants in the next 15 years, and I pray that we have one. I would be ecstatic to have four. There's no way we'll have 15. There's just no way. The United States has not licensed one nuclear power plant in 30 years, not one, due to my friends on the other side's continued opposition to nuclear power.

We could bring nuclear power legislation to the floor in this Congress. And it would have bipartisan support. All the Republicans would support it. Well, we might lose about three. And I bet we could grab 40 Democrats that would support it. I bet we could have a bipartisan majority vote on coal-to-liquid technologies. I'd bet it'd be the same. We'd have all the Republicans minus a handful, and we'd get about 40 Democrat votes. But this Democrat leadership will not bring a bill to the floor that addresses the supply debate.

China opened new domestic energy reserves in 2004 and has planned to increase production by about 8 billion barrels by 2010.

Democrats refuse to allow American workers to produce American oil. In fact, in the energy debate last year, not the final bill that passed, but the two that didn't get signed into law, they put another area of natural gas off limits.

We need increased supply. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that if you want lower prices, you have to have more supply. We don't get any help.

China's increasing offshore energy production to reduce its own dependence on foreign oil. Let me say that, because I've got some friends over there who live on the coast. China is increasing offshore energy production. In fact, we know just 50 miles off of Florida, 50 miles, it's not a U.S. energy company or a U.S. energy exploration to go after the oil in the Gulf 50 miles off Miami. It's China. China has better access to our oil reserves on the Outer

Continental Shelf than we have. Isn't that crazy?

China's increasing offshore energy production to reduce its own dependence on foreign oil, growing that production at an average of 15.3 percent per year, with plans to make offshore oil production China's largest source of oil by doubling production by 2010.

And we know what happens any time we talk about offshore exploration, a counting of gas and oil reserves, just trying to figure out what's there we have a fight.

China invested \$24 billion in large scale coal liquefaction technologies. Oh, that sounds familiar. Coal-to-liquid technologies.

The United States, what are we doing? Zip, zero, nada, nothing.

What's China doing? China invested \$24 billion in large scale coal liquefaction technology. We can't get a vote on that on the floor. China's expanding its natural gas infrastructure by constructing pipelines. We can't get a pipeline bill moved.

China rapidly is expanding its refining capacity. Democrats have repeatedly voted against expanding American refinery capacity. In fact, one of the huge problems we have, which I find is really—I think people understand that we import crude oil. We're relying on imported crude oil and that's bad.

What the public, I think, would even get angrier at is we import refined product. We import gasoline. So not only, we lose the refining jobs. It would be better for us to import the crude oil and refine that crude oil, or at least we'd have our friends in the refining industry, many of those bargaining unit employees would have jobs. But we are importing refined product. Criminal negligence.

China is ambitiously developing its nuclear power industry with plans to spend approximately \$50 billion on 30 additional nuclear reactors within the next 15 years. China is planning on constructing many new large scale hydroelectric projects over the forecast period, including the 18.2 gigawatt Three Gorges dam project, which is scheduled to be operational by 2009.

In fact, we're tearing down dams. We're not expanding hydroelectric power. 50 percent of the electricity we use is produced by coal in this country. 50 percent. 20 percent by nuclear power, 20 percent by hydroelectric, and the rest the others.

I'm going to move to the concern. With no plan to address this problem, which is the escalating costs of crude oil, again, when Speaker PELOSI took over, \$58 a barrel, crude oil.

I'll be honest. Bush took over it was \$27. I always say that. Bush it was \$27, PELOSI, \$58, now \$111. With all the promises, and maybe I'll just read those one more time as I end.

But the basic premise is, under Democrat leadership of the House, the average American is paying more. We're paying more. We're going to pay more in taxes. We know that. But this isn't

a special order on taxes. This is a special order on energy.

We're paying more at the pump. Here's the reason why. The high cost of a barrel of crude oil, we're relying on imported crude oil. One solution would be technology. Another would be to move into electric cars. But guess what? Electric cars need an electric supply. They'll need nuclear power plants. They'll need coal generating, coal, then the electricity generation plants buy coal. There's going to be, we have to have something to charge the batteries to allow these battery-run cars to run.

Let's talk a minute about global climate change. We know that the public is paying more at the pump when the Democrat majority promised lower prices. That's a given.

We had a hearing in the subcommittee last week. My issue to the panelists was, the American public, they need to understand that if we address global climate change there is going to be a cost.

Of course, some on the environmental left said no. We're going to have all these efficiencies. We're going to have all these new jobs. It's going to be a wash.

Well, it's funny, flying home, an AP story on the 12th, the State of California is going to put on the electrical bill, a 25 or 30 percent surcharge on customers' electric and gas bills for global climate change. So your electricity bills are going to go up. Gas prices are up. Electricity prices are up. You're going to pay more in taxes.

This is bitter change, bitter change, not good change. Bitter change. Bitter change for the average American who all they want to do is go to work and pay their bills, take care of their family, try to save some for the future. They can't save with these high energy prices.

And you saw the independent truckers, the article I held up.

If we could have effective change, let's assume that we do all we can as Americans to lead the way, go through all this pain. Do you really believe that our Chinese friends, after I gave all the stats on what they're doing, are going to comply with an international agreement? Not only do I not believe it, they've told me no. And I've mentioned this in many committee hearings.

In fact, the senior Chinese official said twice to two of my Democratic colleagues' questions when they said, if the United States led, would you agree to an international agreement to coal carbon?

And their answer was, you all have had, well they didn't use you all. That's kind of a Southern Illinois thing. They said, you have had 200 years to develop a middle class in your country using fossil fuels, and it's our turn. That doesn't sound like a country that wants to address carbon debate in an international arena.

So should Americans, should we go through all this pain on global climate

change, and have no gain? Do we go through all this exercise, all these job dislocations, all this pain, for not one single benefit?

And if we do, you know, I just want us to be transparent with our citizens. Intellectually honest. Chairman DINGELL said, you know, if we want to be honest with the American people, what we should do is put 50 cents additional tax on gasoline and take that money, and address our carbon debate.

Well, that works great. That now takes \$3.50 a gallon of gas, which people are outraged about, and brings it up to \$4. And it's going to get to \$4 without the additional 50 cent tax. But at least it's intellectually honest, saying that there's going to be a cost.

The California Public Utility Commission is honest. 25 to 30 percent increase on your energy bill for climate change. Great.

Well, it wasn't a front-page story. It was, I don't know, I ripped it up. I think it was, like, the Business Section, like D6, way in the back. So I'm not sure if it made the front page of the California papers, but that's what their public utility commission has agreed to do.

All pain, no gain. The public needs to know the cost and be prepared to assume the cost.

All I see in this debate on energy is bitter change, bitter change for the working men and women of this country. This is contrary to the promises made.

April 24, 2006, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices." Bring down skyrocketing gas. They weren't even skyrocketing then compared to what we have now. Now we've got skyrocketing gas prices.

Majority Leader STENY HOYER said, "Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices."

Y'all did more? You raised gas prices even more.

Democratic Whip JIM CLYBURN said, "House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices."

□ 2045

No energy plan is a plan to fail. We go from \$58.31 a barrel of crude oil to today, \$111.

Now, I got these on little, kind of like a Blue Dog type of thing. I got this on a moveable type of a number system here. So that if it goes up, I can add. If it goes down, I can adjust. But the reality is, the spread, under the leadership of this House, has only gone up. And I believe, and the economists today believe, it will continue to go up.

We can do better. We can do better. I talked to many of my friends on the other side. I actually voted for CAFE language. That was a hard thing for me to do. Helped expand the renewable fuel standard. Brought biodiesel and ethanol into the national energy debate. That's all good stuff. Energy Star provisions. Electricity savings provisions.

We want the deployment of solar cells. We want wind power. As I mentioned earlier, Illinois could be at the forefront of electricity generation by wind.

What we do know, Texas had to call their high electricity users when their wind turbines stopped turning because the wind stopped blowing. That's the challenge of renewable energy. Instead of having a consistent base-load energy, and in this country it's undisputed that coal is the primary commodity product that produces 50 percent of the electricity generation in this country. The electricity we're using in the Capitol building tonight is produced by coal. The electricity on the Capitol grounds is produced by coal.

There are some of my friends on the other side that would like us to not use another ounce of fossil fuels ever in this country. I am afraid of those days because those days will only occur when there's another worldwide recession. And you want to see the pain and the agony and the frustration on the middle- and the lower-middle class of our country, wait till there's no jobs. We won't be putting carbon in the air. That will be good for some people, but we won't be employing our citizens either. And that will be a shame.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me this time. I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman GARRETT and Congressman SULLIVAN, for joining me in a plea to my friends on the other side that, as we continue to talk about energy, we don't disregard the supply debate. That's got to be part of the solution. It just has to be because just so much of the electricity that we use today is based upon 50 percent coal, 20 percent nuclear, 20 percent hydroelectric. They have to be part of the mix. It's my plea that, as we move forward and try to address the high cost of electricity and liquid fuel, we remember the great resources that we have in this country and have a plan to use them.

#### WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, before I begin, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity that has been given to us by Speaker PELOSI tonight to talk about an issue that is affecting literally mil-

lions of families across America, and that is the lack of affordable child care and early childhood education. It is especially important to highlight these issues as this week marks the Week of the Young Child.

For the next hour, we're going to focus on young children and how, over the last 7 years, we have failed to provide adequate and necessary funding for vital child care and early childhood education.

And I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that as a mother of three young children—I have 8-year-old twins and an almost 5-year-old, 4½-year-old little girl—this is something that is near and dear to my heart.

I remember the struggle that I went through when I first gave birth to my twins and had to go back to work, and we searched and searched for a quality child care program. We were turning our newborn babies, 3 months old, 4 months old, over to really, basically, someone we didn't know, someone to care for our little ones all day long. You know, we just couldn't even imagine turning over the care of our babies, our most precious resource, we couldn't imagine turning over our babies to anyone.

So you can imagine the struggle that people go through when, on top of having to decide where they can take their children to be cared for while they work, that they also have to struggle through the angst of not knowing or not expecting that they can afford that care. And because we have continued to slash and burn from this administration the funding for Head Start and for the Child Care Development Block Grants programs, we absolutely wanted to come to the floor tonight and spend an hour, at least an hour, highlighting the needs that children in this country have, and particularly those of working families. And I'm going to be joined tonight by several of my colleagues.

Before we begin, though, I do want to recognize and thank our good friend, Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee, and Chairman KILDEE, DALE KILDEE, for their leadership and their commitment to child care issues and education, as well as the Head Start and Child Care Development Block Grant Program funding. These are all programs that are near and dear to their hearts, and a number of these Members have submitted statements.

We just have to highlight that there are children, especially those from low-income families, that need better access to high-quality early childhood programs. Across the Nation, Madam Speaker, child care fees average from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year which exceed the cost of public universities in most States. Yet nationally, only one in seven children who are financially eligible for child care subsidies is being served. One in seven.

And at this time, I would like to turn the podium over to a champion for America's children, the voice in this

body that is consistently there for those who have no voice. She is the current Chair of the Woman's Caucus, Congressman LOIS CAPPs of California.

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of the Week of the Young Child. I want to thank our colleague from Florida, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, who is such a good role model, and often-times her children are here, and they give testimony to the fact that working moms can be successful parents as well as wonderful professionals in this business that we're in.

And I'm pleased to be with some of my colleagues, MAZIE HIRONO and JASON ALTMIRE and others who may join us, to call attention to the importance of the Week of the Young Child. My daughter and her dearest friend, whom she met in preschool, are visiting and taking part in this; and it's a testimony to the importance of those early years and some life-long friendships that can result as a result of that.

As we celebrate this important week, I want to take the opportunity to highlight two very critical programs which our colleague has already mentioned that are so important to young children: The Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, and Head Start. As someone who has spent most of my life working with our kids in our public schools, I know firsthand the power and the importance of these programs for both our kids and our families.

Due to the realities and demands of today's family life, there are many young people, many children who are left with too much unstructured time, and we know the hours right after school are the most dangerous and important hours of the day.

Unfortunately, parents are working longer hours and often have to leave their children in the care of their siblings or others who should not have to have the responsibility to do this. Child care can often be the second highest cost in the family budget. Sometimes, it's the highest. Child care costs consume roughly 42 percent of the median single parent's family income, at around \$10,000 annually.

With a growing home mortgage crisis and stagnant economic outlook, parents cannot afford this. It's simply a matter that is of dire consequence to many of our families today.

Child care and development block grants enable 162,000 children a month in California to receive adequate child care. As the only source of Federal funding to subsidize child care for low-income families, CCDBG has life-changing effects on thousands of families in California and therefore needs our full support.

Unfortunately, this program has been level funded for 6 years, and that is why I'm fully supporting an \$874 million increase in CCDBG. This funding would restore the program to an adequate level and provide child care to an additional 39,400 children in California

alone. And as you can see from the chart here, there are children all across this country standing in line, waiting in line.

One of the largest circles, if not the largest circle, is the one that designates California where 207,000 children today are standing in line waiting for child care. And you know, we know children don't stand in line. They don't stay. It is not status quo for children. They miss an opportunity. There's a black hole. There's a gap in what they need for their development, and that time goes away, and it never will come back to them.

This investment that we need to make here will not only result in boosting children's social development and their school readiness but results in stable and productive employment among parents. The biggest worry that parents have on the job is what's happening to their children at home. The biggest obstruction to their doing their job well is the worry and the constant concern about where their children are and how they're being cared for.

Providing the resources for children will help these parents gain promotions in their job and do a better work product for their employers.

Additionally, an early childhood education provides a foundation necessary for the child's educational future. For four decades, Head Start programs have so successfully provided early education, health care, social service and parental involvement support for low-income children and their families. This is a proven program. It's tested. It's tried. It has succeeded for over the generations, and we know that this program works. It is one of the most cost-effective ways we can use tax dollars. The program helps children start their education ready to succeed.

So much of education is focused on closing achievement gaps, and I believe Head Start is one of the best tools to do that because it starts at the front end before the gaps widen. Sadly, Head Start has received only modest funding increases over the past 7 years. Without an increase, thousands of children could lose access to Head Start because of inflation. The program is fundamental to the education success of thousands of children. We know that, and yet the program can only serve roughly half of the children who are eligible.

I know, I believe I have seen it firsthand; Head Start gives all children the opportunity to succeed in school and therefore in life. And I fully support a \$1.072 billion increase for this vital program. Our children deserve this support.

And now it is my pleasure to relinquish my time to my colleagues who will carry this debate in this hour of conversation forward, and I'm so honored to be amongst them and to know that we are speaking for others in our Congress as well who know that this is the time to act on these matters.

I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank Congresswoman CAPPS. You have just been an incredible leader on the issues that are important to women and young families, and it is so incredibly important in this Week of the Young Child that we have a leader like Congresswoman CAPPS, the Chair of the Women's Caucus, who has been such a stalwart on the issues that are important to young women and families; and it's just a pleasure to have her join us on the floor today.

It is also a pleasure to have such a committed and passionate and compassionate father serving in the House of Representatives with us from Pennsylvania, a wonderful father of two young daughters and someone who has done an incredible job since he's joined the Congress after the 2006 election, Congressman JASON ALTMIRE of Pennsylvania.

□ 2100

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentlewoman. And I did want to say about our colleague from California, there are a lot of advocates for children and for young families in this Congress, and a lot of us are passionate about those issues, but there is no one who has done more advocacy and has worked harder than Congresswoman CAPPS, and so I want to thank her for her comments.

I was in my office and I heard that this Special Order was beginning. And the gentlewoman knows the passion that I bring to the table to these issues. Early childhood education is something I have always talked about. I am a member of a board that is not even in my district. There is an organization far outside my district called the Heritage Health Foundation in a town called Braddock, Pennsylvania, and they sponsor an early childhood education center called the For Kids Center. And it's been in existence long enough that you can see the fruits of the labor there. You can see children that have come through the program, that have had access to early childhood education, and compare them to this community that has fallen on hard times, students and children that have not had access at the same level to early childhood education. And what you find is that the students who have gone through the For Kids Center, the early childhood center and have had access to those services test three grade levels ahead of their peers when you test peer to peer.

Early childhood education works, there is no question about it. And the dollars that we reinvest into the system are paid back many times over in the dividends that they pay in the grade levels and testing better and the performance throughout their school, and they get into less trouble and the kids perform better academically. It all builds upon itself.

So when I was elected to Congress, as the gentlewoman said, in 2006, one of the first things you have to do is

choose what committee you're going to serve on. And I knew right away that I wanted to serve on the Education Committee because I wanted to work on the Head Start Reauthorization. That's one of the first things out of the gate that that committee was tasked with doing. I was involved with the Head Start Reauthorization, and we were able to get that through Congress because everyone should be able to agree on the need for early childhood education.

In Pennsylvania, we have 7,529 children that are standing in line for child care. In the chart that the congresswoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) showed, you can see Pennsylvania; 7,529 children that should have access to child care and early education services, but don't.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her friendship and her leadership. As she mentioned, I do have two young daughters, and I can see the value of these services. I just wish that everyone in this country could have access to the same services that we have access to. I thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to address the House tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. ALTMIRE. And thank you for your leadership and for giving your time in public service to make sure that the next generation is well represented here in the halls of Congress.

It is incredibly important and so beneficial to the issues important to working families to have parents of young children serving in the Congress, having moms and dads who are living and dealing with these issues every day. We've got to make sure that we have their voice represented strongly in this House of Representatives.

And now it's my privilege to turn the mic over to my good friend who represents the beautiful islands of Hawaii, the gentlewoman from Hawaii, MAZIE HIRONO.

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentlelady from Florida for her leadership on issues important to our young people, and for yielding some time to me.

I know that you mentioned mothers and fathers. Well, grandparents, too, because I'm a step-grandparent and I have a wonderful step-daughter who has two young children. So these are issues near and dear to all of us.

As we commemorate the Week of the Young Child, I rise today in strong support of quality early childhood education, and tonight, in particular, for increased funding for Head Start and the Child Care and Development block grants, two Federal programs supporting our youngest children.

Congress got it right when it created Head Start 43 years ago. This is an example of a government program that families depend on every day and that really works, thanks largely to the many talented and dedicated teachers throughout our Nation.

I want to take a moment to commemorate the life of one such teacher,

Mrs. Leona Stevens, who served as the lead teacher at several Maui Head Start centers for over 15 years. She passed away unexpectedly recently and will be deeply missed by all of us.

Mrs. Stevens was known for valuing students' creativity and continually asked them, "why do you think that?" and "what do you think will happen?" She was equally passionate about improving the quality of Head Start by training new early education teachers and furthering her own education. She went back to school to get her associates degree in early childhood education and spent 7 years working in partnership with Maui Community College to train new Head Start teachers.

Last year, while Leona was mentoring new young teachers, Congress worked hard to pass the Head Start Reauthorization bill, which was signed into law. The bill made many improvements to this program, but the single most important thing we did was to increase the amount of money authorized for Head Start.

Of course we all know the difference between authorized levels and appropriated levels. This year, we must put our money where our mouth is. The fact is, only half of all eligible children are served by Head Start, and a measly 3 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are served by early Head Start. This means hundreds of thousands of low-income families are without access to high-quality early education opportunities for their children.

Speaker PELOSI hosted a summit for America's children last year in which we heard from neuroscientists, police chiefs, business leaders, all of whom told us in unequivocal language that it pays to invest in children before they turn six. I chaired a hearing on early education in the full Education and Labor Committee earlier this year, and we heard the same message from State level advocates and policy makers.

I talk to parents, Kindergarten teachers and business leaders in Hawaii every time I go home, and they tell me that we must increase access to high-quality early education and child care opportunities. Why? Because that is the best investment that we can make in our young children and in our country's future.

Certainly this year, like every other year, Congress will face many difficult spending decisions. We will fund our veterans and troops, fund health and alternative energy research, fund our public schools. I will support increases in all of these things, but this is not a zero sum game and we cannot afford to let our youngest children slip through the cracks.

We should increase funding for Head Start by at least \$1 billion and increase funding for CCDBG by \$874 million. It is a matter of fairness. Every child deserves a shot at success. We know, however, that many children from low-income families start Kindergarten with half the vocabulary of their wealthier peers. High-quality preschool can do much to close this gap.

It is a matter, also, of economic prosperity. Our small business community, our science and technology community all need educated workers. Low-income children who go to a high-quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school than their peers that did not go to preschool.

Finally, it is a smart investment of Federal dollars. Research shows that every dollar invested in high-quality early education programs returns somewhere between \$2 and \$17. Even at the very low end of that spectrum, it is a worthwhile investment.

Parents, police officers, business owners and teachers across Hawaii and the rest of the country are asking us to make children a priority. I know that Maui's beloved Mrs. Stevens would join them. I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to provide real increases to these vital programs.

And I close by saying that the working people of Hawaii, we have a much higher percentage of working parents, working single parents than probably any other State in the country, and that is because the cost of living is very high in Hawaii. I've talked to the many mothers and fathers and grandparents who take care of their grandchildren now of how important it is for their kids and their grandchildren to have a good start in life. And certainly one of the best ways for them to get a good start in life is to make sure that we continue to support Head Start and the other grant programs that will give them this chance.

I yield back to my colleague from Florida and thank her for her continuing leadership on these and so many other issues.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Congresswoman HIRONO. You have been an incredible leader when it comes to the issues that are important to working families.

I often think about the constituents that you represent. We make public policies so far away from the people that you represent; they need a strong voice all the more for that reason, and you have done an amazing job representing them. It's a pleasure and an honor to serve with you here.

Ms. HIRONO. Same here. Thank you very much.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, to continue on with the highlighting of the Week of the Young Child, there are statistics that are incredibly important, and I will go through some of those this evening. But more important than the statistics and the studies are the stories. And I can tell you, as a mom with young children, who I probably will talk about quite a bit this evening, you don't need studies, you don't need statistics to be able to see the progress that your child makes when they go through a preschool, when they go through a childcare program. And you can see their brain literally working like sponges, absorbing the informa-

tion and processing it and turning it into useful information. And I can tell you that I've seen my children, my four-and-a-half-year-old is still in pre-K and is just about to enter Kindergarten next year. And I've watched her learn her ABCs, she can count to 100, she knows every color, every shape. And had she not had an opportunity to go to a wonderful preschool program to learn those things, yes, I could have spent time with her and taught her those things, but given that I work full-time, and when I think about the hundreds of thousands, millions of parents who have to struggle with that choice, and then an administration that callously cuts those programs or flat funds them so that fewer, not more, parents have access to Head Start and child care, it's just absolutely unconscionable. I wonder if they have a soul. I wonder if there is anyone in the White House that has a soul and that has a heart. Because surely those kinds of decisions are only made by heartless people.

I am so glad to be joined by the gentlewoman from New York, a wonderful Member, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE. And I am glad that she has also joined me tonight.

Before I turn it over to her, I want to highlight a story of Jennifer from Chicago because, like I said, highlighting the stories as opposed to the studies and the stats is what really shows you the kind of impact that the policy decisions that we make up here when it comes to funding child care programs and Head Start adequately, that's what really matters.

I want to talk about Jennifer from Chicago, who was profiled in a news story on Marketplace radio. Jennifer works as a receptionist at a real estate company. She is a single mom working full-time and going to school part-time. And so many people will hear their own story in Jennifer's story.

Jennifer was doing all she could to improve her life and the life of her daughter. In fact, even though Jennifer was working full-time, raising her daughter on her own and going to school part-time, she impressed her boss so much with her work that she was given a small raise. And then, Jennifer ran into a big problem. With the raise that she got, she could no longer qualify for assistance with the Illinois child care program that she had been using. She literally had such a dramatic shift in what she had to pay for her daughter's child care, it went from \$2,000 to \$9,000 a year just by that small increase in her salary, and that small increase in her salary caused the \$9,000 that she then had to pay, that was 40 percent of her salary, just from the small raise that she got. Her only option at that point was to send her 5-year-old daughter to live with the girl's father a couple of hours away in Indiana. So she had to either give up her job or give up her daughter. But if she gave up her job, she wouldn't be able to care for her daughter, Mr.



Speaker. So obviously this is a situation that was not working.

So Jennifer, this is just so sad, she had to go back to her boss and actually ask him for a demotion. She had to ask him to cut her pay by about \$100 per paycheck so that she could be eligible for the subsidized child care again so that she could get her daughter back. That was the choice that she was faced with, and it was just awful. I can't even imagine. That meant that her income would again qualify for the child care assistance, and then she immediately applied for it.

So the transition from paying a co-payment to paying the full cost of care is what Illinois Action for Children calls "the cliff." People like Jennifer, they fall off the cliff. And we actually penalize people like Jennifer who work hard to try to get ahead. We tell them no, you can't work your way up.

We can't continue to hold these people back. We have got to make sure that we help these people pursue these dreams, advance themselves, be able to improve the quality of their children's education, improve their own lot in life and their family's lot in life, not give them a choice between giving up their children or pursuing a better opportunity in life.

And Ms. CLARKE, the National Women's Law Center says that only one in seven U.S. children are eligible for Federal child care help; only one in seven of those kids get it. And in the view of the National Women's Law Center, all these programs for Head Start and child care have never been fully funded by the Federal Government.

I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman. Thank you for joining us today.

Ms. CLARKE. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her leadership on this issue, and at the advent of the Week of the Young Child, that we would take this time to really put things in focus.

You know, every time I go home to my district on the weekends there is a particular constituent of mine that no matter where he sees me, we say something to each other. He started this when I was running for office. And he said to me, "Yvette, if you ever get elected, remember the children."

□ 2115

Every time I run into the gentleman, he says the same thing to me over and over, and now that's how we greet each other: "Remember the children." And while we're going through all of the challenges that we are facing in day-to-day life as adults, remembering the children is probably the most poignant message that we could give to this administration and, quite frankly, give to our constituencies and to this Nation. The investment we make in our youngest, most vulnerable today will be the difference in where this Nation will be in the next decade, the next score, the next 100 years. And the short-

sightedness for so long in providing the real resource and support that our families need, that our parents need, that our mothers need, to give their children really what I believe they should be entitled to, because as you've stated already this evening, the science point to it. The earlier that we begin the education process for our children, the more advantaged they are. In communities of color, that means closing the gap, the achievement gap. We know this. It's well documented. Science backs it up. Yet the will, the will to really address this issue is really what we are addressing this evening.

And when we think about the fact that we were innovative enough to know that creating a Child Care and Development Block Grant was important, that's fluff with no substance when there's no funding to it.

And I have been very fortunate. I kind of grew up in the day care movement. Many people know my mother as a former councilwoman. But even prior to that, she started her career, one part of her career, let me put it that way, because she is the renaissance woman, but one of my earliest recollections of my mom and the work that she did was being a teacher's aide in a classroom in an early childhood education center. Some people call them day care centers. But I saw the certified teachers in the classroom. I saw the nutritious meals, the educational curricula that were developed just for these students. So I know better. I know that these are early childhood education.

She worked her way up from being a teacher's aide to an assistant teacher and then to a full class teacher. She then went on to become a day care director and then became a supervisor of several day care centers within our city's extensive child care system.

So the thousands, if not tens of thousands of lives that I've seen personally touched by an early childhood education experience, we can't put a dollar figure on it. These are young people who I run into today that say, "I used to go to your mom's day care; I'm now a doctor." "I used to in your mom's day care; I'm now a teacher." "I used to be in your mom's day care; can I write you a check?" I'm like, all right, that's really worth it. That's really worth it.

And I make light of it, but it's really up to us, the 110th Congress, to really push the envelope where this is concerned. This is where the rubber meets the road. We find ourselves in some really challenging times when it comes to workforce, workforce demands, the individuals who will be future employees. And we have talked about the challenge of our public school systems and truly adequately educating our students and our scholars when we have this opportunity right now to make it clear that we do stand for the education of our children. We do stand for providing for young children this opportunity to get that head start in life.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Reclaiming my time, you made a reference to your mom and the wonderful quality of care that she provided to the children that she cared for over the years. And then, of course, she made hiring decisions as she moved up the ladder and became a child care director. Your comments about your mom's involvement with improving the lives of children in those programs made me think about finding the information on providers' salaries because it is horrendous that we are actually cutting the funding for these programs for the kids themselves and that only one in seven kids are eligible. But listen to the statistics about how much the providers, the teachers, are actually paid:

The average Head Start teacher's salary, and, now, that's Head Start, not child care. We are talking about two separate programs here tonight so that people understand me because these acronyms get thrown around a whole lot in Washington. We have the Head Start program, which is the high-quality education program that subsidizes and provides high-quality preschool education for young kids who are income eligible, and then there's the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, which is a subsidized child care program that is funded around the States and there's a Federal-State match for.

So the average Head Start teacher's salary varies by the teacher's education. So if you have what's called a child development associate's, which is the first rung on the ladder in terms of an education credential, not a certified teacher but you have a lot of hours of course work that you've taken, an average Head Start teacher with a CDA gets paid about \$21,000. If you have an associate's degree, so now you've got a 2-year college degree, you get \$22,500. If you have a baccalaureate degree, that is a full-blown college degree, you make about \$27,000 in the Head Start program. Now, the average teacher's salary, who also get hired with a baccalaureate degree, is about \$48,000, \$49,000. So a Head Start teacher, depending on their education credential, makes between \$21,000 and \$27,000 a year. I mean that is just unbelievable.

Ms. CLARKE. It really is, if the gentleman will yield.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. I just wanted to insert that.

Ms. CLARKE. I think it's a very important point because one of the challenges that our very extensive public day care system is experiencing in the city of New York is the stress between being a certified teacher in the public day care center, the salaries received there, versus maybe a couple more course credits and going into the straight into the public schools that calling for more teachers, more qualified teachers, certified teachers, and so we see a bleeding of the system. We went through a very extensive time of advocacy, activism to really mobilize for early childhood education, for day

care, for working parents, for working mothers, and now we are seeing an erosion, all a reaction to a lot of what we have seen in terms of the cuts. So in New York City, where we have had this longstanding system of over 330 day care centers throughout the five boroughs that employ almost 6,000 caregivers, we're seeing day care closings.

And that doesn't mean the demand is gone. The demand continues. The waiting list continues in perpetuity. There will be some children who won't get this opportunity. They will be disadvantaged.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It's not that the need is not there.

Ms. CLARKE. That's right.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Is it really that if the funding is not there, then these centers can't afford to stay open?

Ms. CLARKE. That's right. So there are some real challenges that we have to look squarely in the eye. And we have to ask ourselves what about the children? How are we preparing ourselves to sacrifice as a society to make sure that in 10 years, in 20 years, in 30 years, we are one of the most competitive nations in the world? We're struggling with those answers and trying to balance it all out now, but it begins with an investment that we make in our young.

And what we are seeing in terms of these cuts and in terms of the rhetoric coming from the Bush Administration do not bode well, notwithstanding all of what we hear about his care and his concern for the families of our Nation.

Put the money for the mouth is. That's what I say. Put the money where the mouth is. We want to expand and institutionalize early childhood education so that the United States is, indeed, the most competitive when it comes to development of our scientists and development of our engineers and development of those who will have to compete globally as our economy continues to morph with young scholars coming from other nations who have decided, notwithstanding their GDPs, to invest in the education of their children.

And so I just wanted to stop in and share some of my experience with you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and to say to my colleagues that we have to stand up. This is a critical issue, and as we reflect on the week of the young child, it is important that we not forget that they come from a community of families, and those families are struggling. They need to be able to be at the job on time. They need to be able to know that their children are safe and in a wholesome environment while they are at work. And that's what these child care centers and these early childhood education environments create for the children and for their parents: a sense of relief and a sense of well-being both for the child and the family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. And I want to thank you so much for coming down and joining me tonight.

What we have been trying to do is highlight the consequences to these horrendous policymaking decisions. And I talked about Jennifer a few minutes ago and what her situation is like. Some of my colleagues from the various States that are represented on this chart mentioned their own States' statistics this evening. But I want to give a fuller picture of what the real consequences are to not funding adequately Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants. So this is what it looks like in my State, Ms. CLARKE: In my State of Florida, nearly 45,000 children are standing in line for child care. In other words, we have got almost 45,000 kids in my State who are eligible for child care, but they can't get it because we're not funding it adequately, I mean simply because we are not providing enough funds.

I mean what are we spending it on? What is more important? Like you said, the gentleman that you said says the same refrain every single time, "remember the children," that's what it is all about.

I remember being pregnant with my twins and people telling me throughout my pregnancy, Oh, DEBBIE, you're life is going to change. Just wait. You're not going to believe it. You never imagined that you could care about something so much as when you give birth to your kids. And you sort of nod and smile, and you tell them, sure, you can imagine what it's going to be like. Well, you can't imagine. You can't imagine what it's going to be like until you have them. And that's what everybody tells you. You can't imagine that you could care and love something more than when you give birth to your children. And you would do anything to make sure that they were okay, that they had the best possible life that they could have.

And when parents who are struggling to make sure that they can put food on the table, that they can pay the mortgage, not have the house foreclosed on, make sure that they can have time to go to their job, but, at the same time, have a high-quality child care situation so that they don't have to worry about the one or two or three or however many kids they have that they care more about than anything in the world, what it is this administration doing? Cutting the funding for our most precious resource.

So it's not just Florida. It's not just New York. There are 207,000 kids in California on a waiting list.

How about Georgia? Georgia, Ms. CLARKE, that actually has a pre-K program funded by the lottery, which is supposed to provide a pre-K education to all the 4 year olds in that State, and there are only 6 million people in the State of Georgia as it is, there are 24,808, almost 25,000 kids on the waiting list for child care that they qualify for. In North Carolina almost 18,000 kids are on the waiting list, 15,000 in Texas, 207,000 in California. Those are kids that don't have access to child care who are eligible.

□ 2130

Nationwide, it is 365,604 children who are waiting in line for child care. And what do those parents do? What do they do? They have to choose between working. If they don't work, how are they going to put food on the table? How are they going to be able to live? Many of these parents have to choose between whether they are going to be able to hold on to their children or not. The angst that I feel in my heart even thinking about having to make a choice like that. There is no one that should have to make that choice. And that the government, their own government, would deprive them of the ability to care for their kids is just mind-boggling.

Ms. CLARKE. Would the gentlewoman yield a moment? Just think about the mobility of a family that is unable to have their child care subsidized, the time that it will take for them to be able to gain firm footing once their children now get into public schools. And then the challenges they may face with learning deficits, quite frankly, because there are children of means who are being given an opportunity to be in stimulating learning environments when some working class parents just can't afford it. And without the support that we can give, we are really handicapping. We are really tying the arms of these families and these communities. And we know that if we just give people a chance in this society, they can make the best of it. And that can make a difference from one generation to the next.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. And let's show people what we mean. And I know you have seen this information before. What we are talking about, when you describe the difference between a parent who can't decide to bring their child to a child care program because there is no money, they can't afford to pay for it, the Federal Government is slashing the funding for it so they don't have a slot funded for their child, even though they are eligible, what happens, like you said, is that you have the parents who can afford it when those kids get to public school, they have already been through several years of pre-kindergarten, and they arrive at school and start kindergarten at 5 years old ready to learn, which is what the goal of Head Start and these child care programs is. The Federal funding that we provide is designed to make sure those children get to school ready to learn.

And this is the correlation of funding from the Federal Government for child care and Head Start and brain development. We are literally funding it in the opposite direction from the way the brain grows and develops and when we provide funding. So here is when you have the most brain growth, and the most rapid brain growth and the most important point in a child's life for that brain growth, and we are funding it the most when we are well beyond the points that the child's brain

growth has not ceased, but certainly when it has slowed.

This chart should be inversed. We should be funding the highest percentage when the child's brain is developing at its earliest point between birth and 5 years old. But we are doing the opposite. It makes absolutely no sense. It really boggles my mind.

And that hurts. We are talking about real kids. I brought pictures of real children who are impacted by these decisions because I think we have to remember what we are talking about here. So often when we have discussions on the floor here, it becomes easy to become desensitized to the fact that we are talking about real people. These are real children who are being cared for. And I am going to tell their story in a little bit. But look at these beautiful children. And this is their caregiver. And I'm going to tell their story in a couple of minutes. But I just don't think it can be forgotten that every funding cut, every decision we make like this affects one of these precious babies. And I just can't even imagine how there is no heart in the White House. Although I shouldn't be shocked after almost 8 years of this administration. It is just unbelievable. We have got to make sure, and the reason that we are here tonight during the Week of the Young Child, is we have to make sure that we push in the next fiscal year, in fiscal year 2009, for an increase in Child Care and Development Block Grant funding the Head Start program. And Democrats have been fighting to make sure that we do that. We passed a wonderful Head Start bill. We have got to make sure that we reverse the lost ground that has occurred after 7 years of flat funding from this administration.

Ms. CLARKE. Would the gentlewoman yield a moment? It is an imperative. As I have said, since I've been on the Hill these past 15 months and have looked just about every crisis in the eye from mortgage foreclosure to the war in Iraq to you name it, education, health care, it all points back to the fact that we are at a specific juncture in our Nation's history that requires courage. And that means the courage to make the proper investments for the growth and development of our Nation.

There is no more worthy an investment for us to make than in these children, than our children, our Nation's children. They will be inheriting from us a millstone around their ankles if we don't do right by them today.

With the challenges that we are facing in terms of the debt build-up in this Nation, it is going to take a whole group of really smart people, really intelligent folk, who use the ingenuity of who we are as Americans to take us to the next level. That investment starts now. You can't invest it in me. It's too late for me. The investment is in our children.

So I thank the gentlelady again. This is a very important special order that we are here, we are at the advent of the

Week of the Young Child and that we are speaking out for those families that don't have a voice here, that don't have the high-paid lobbyists, that are really working every day, and they come home, they hug their babies and they just want an opportunity for that baby to succeed.

In many instances, those children are struggling like salmon swimming upstream in environments that are less than wholesome. And were they to be in an early childhood education setting, they would be sure to get a nutritious meal every day. They would have a loving caregiver that also is there to stimulate the growth of the intellect and the brain. And that is why these dollars that are requested, which are really not breaking the bank by any means, are so critical and can reap such dividends in the long run if we do right by them today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is the difference, literally, it's like when a baby is born, particularly to a working family that is not rolling in cash, that is literally struggling to put together their paychecks every month to meet their family's needs, it's like that baby's life begins on a crossroads. And we hold the key to which path they will end up on.

If we decide, like this administration, like the Bush administration has consistently decided during their time in office to cut the funding for child care, subsidized child care and for Head Start, then we are, not always, because there are kids that avoid it, but we are making it much more likely that the path that those kids travel down end up sending them more likely into a life of crime, potentially into an inability or decision not to graduate from high school. They end up dropping out. They make the wrong choices because they don't learn at the earliest stage how to make the right choices. They don't learn the basics. They don't have all the tools that they need to draw upon to be strong, to deal with life's challenges. This is not exaggeration. This is real.

Ms. CLARKE. The achievement gap is real. It is well-documented. And if these children had that Head Start, had the early childhood education, it closes the achievement gap by leaps and bounds. The clock to education doesn't start when we slide that child into the kindergarten door. There is so much more that goes into it. And I am a witness to what early childhood education can do. I have seen it for generations in New York, for working-class parents, parents that by no means are wealthy, but we had a period of time in our city's history where we understood that early childhood education was a critical component to not only helping working families but to giving those children that educational boost, that stimulating environment, that healthy and wholesome environment while their parents were at work.

There is nothing worse than a parent that has to worry about their child. We

hear these horrible stories about people who go to work and leave their child in a car, or worse leave it with a younger child that is then caught in a situation where harm comes to them. We need to be able to allay those types of fears for parents. And this is a win-win-win scenario, our investment in Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants. It's a win-win-win scenario.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is. And it's hard to imagine what's more important. Should we continue to spend \$14 million an hour in Iraq? Fourteen million dollars an hour is what we are spending in Iraq. Yet we can't come up with the funding that we need to make sure that all the kids in this country that are eligible for Head Start and for subsidized child care can actually go.

Ms. CLARKE. Or gentlelady, how about \$110,000 a year for a child in juvenile detention?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is unbelievable. So we are choosing to lock kids like that up and spend more money, much more money, than we would spend on them up front to make sure that they get the education and the early start and the building blocks for success that are so much less expensive, but are also just the right thing to do. But for the accident of your birth you should not be in a situation where some kids are getting those basics and other kids are thrown to the wolves. We have these programs so that we can equalize the situation in life for Americans.

Look, we live in a capitalistic society. And that is absolutely the economy that we all support and know and revere. And it has served us well through more than 200 years. But because we live in a capitalistic society, it does not mean that we should be throwing our children, our most vulnerable, to the wolves but for the accident of their birth.

Ms. CLARKE. What it is is the coming of age. Our economy is evolving in ways that generations before us could have never imagined. That means that we have to redouble our efforts when it comes to the education of our young. We have to come up with the winning strategies for Americans to be able to move our Nation forward. This is the way to go. This is the way to go.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You're absolutely right. I want to tell another story and highlight the impact on another family. We talked about the Head Start program. There are also child care providers who provide wonderful service in those subsidized child care programs. And we have had frozen Child Care and Development Block Grant funding that has led to stagnant and even decreasing reimbursement rates for providers who care for those children receiving subsidies.

In 2006, only nine States paid reimbursement rates that were on par with what the Federal Government recommends. And one of those results is there's an alarming 35 percent turnover

rate for child care providers because they can't afford to continue to work in that field.

And I want to tell the story of a young woman named Kelly Matthews. Kelly is a child care provider in Iowa City, Iowa. I want to read you Kelly's story in her own words, because this is how she described her situation.

She said, "You and I share something important in common. We both go to work each day with a grounded, deeply held belief that we do our chosen work for one very simple reason, to change the world."

And I know how many times I have said that the reason I do this job is to make the world a better place and to change the world. Kelly is right here with her kids in her program.

She said, "I don't work in the Halls of Congress, but in my home, caring for children in my Child Development Home in Iowa City. What other reason, aside from wishing to impact the future, could motivate someone to take on a job with modest pay, no benefits and no paid time off? This isn't about a 'job' for me. This is my profession, my chosen life's work. And it is an amazing gift I am given each day to partner with the families I serve."

□ 2145

"I have built my childcare program around the ideas of community, caring for each other, and falling in love with learning. I love this work because I have carefully crafted a program where kids succeed in all these areas in amazing ways: When Claire (at 18 months) already knows how to comfort a friend, when Trae (at 5 years old) can easily count and set out the right number of plates for his friends at the lunch table, when Lexi (at 3 years old) works hard to write the names of the members of her family, when Gus (at 3 years old) knows how to care for his things and the things that belong to others, or when two toddlers are already capable of working out a conflict in a peaceful way without an adult's intervention," what I wouldn't give for that in my house, "I know these children will be ready, not only for school, but just as importantly, for life. They will grow into adults that know how to take responsibility for themselves and how to care for others, how to problem solve and be creative in their endeavors, how to keep on trying, even when it is tricky."

She said, "I take this work seriously. Approximately 50 hours a week of my time with children in my home, plus all the additional hours of paperwork, supply shopping, continuing education, networking with my colleagues, and add to that total, developing and presenting hours of training to inspire other family childcare providers to constantly improve themselves and their programs. But for those of us committed to our professions and our vision of an inspired word, it is all in a day's work, isn't it?"

That is what Kelly Matthews, this wonderful woman with all her children

in her program around her, had to say about her work, and it is the reason that we are standing here on the floor tonight at the beginning of the Week of the Young Child.

I am so pleased that you have been able to join me, Ms. CLARKE, and I turn it over to you to close us out.

Ms. CLARKE. I think that your daycare provider has really said it all. I don't think there is a dollar value that can you truly put on the work that these women and men do with our youngest, most vulnerable ones. And they make that sacrifice. Wouldn't it be awesome if they were rewarded and our communities were rewarded and our families were rewarded with a government that responded and really put the funding in place, to not only raise the level, but to get rid of all of those waiting lists that we see. What a difference that would make in every one of our communities around this Nation.

Thank you very much for your commitment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, we think we have made a very strong case tonight at the beginning of the Week of the Young Child to make sure that there is a mandate for this Congress to increase the funding for Head Start, increase the funding for Child Care and Development Block Grants, and make sure that when those little babies are put on the crossroads of the path of their life, that we send them strongly down the right path so that they can have the best life that they can possibly have.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for organizing this Special Order.

Improved funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start are integral to every child having the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant enables 1.8 million children from more than 1 million families to receive child care and provides essential resources to help states improve the quality of that care. Reliable, high-quality child care supports parents' productive employment and helps children enter school ready to learn.

Head Start is our country's model for a successful comprehensive early learning program for low-income children. It combines early education, health care, social services, and nutrition services with a strong focus on parent involvement and support and builds on the strengths of local communities.

The bipartisan 2007 Head Start reauthorization, which I was proud to have introduced, included many positive provisions that will move the program forward by expanding access and enhancing quality. But, increased investment is critical to meeting those goals.

More than 100 of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, recently joined me to urge the Appropriations Committee to reverse the Administration's funding policies that have led to thousands fewer children attending Head Start than in 2002 and put 200,000 children at risk of losing child care assistance by 2009 without increased funding.

Whether or not America's most vulnerable young children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our investment in these programs.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an important program to my district and my state which has been consistently flat funded for the past seven years: the Head Start program. As you know, Head Start is an early childhood program with a proven track record of providing comprehensive developmental, educational, health, nutritional, and social services to low-income preschool children and their families, giving them the tools they need to succeed. By emphasizing parental involvement, Head Start also benefits the entire family and the broader community. For decades, Head Start has served thousands low-income children and their families in Utah, ensuring that they are educationally, socially and medically ready for school.

I have always been a strong supporter of Head Start. After years of stalemate on proposed changes to the program, I was pleased to vote for a reauthorization this May, and again in final passage this November, that includes expanded coverage for low-income children, increased funding for teacher and staff salaries and professional development, and strong accountability measures to better ensure that Head Start funds are used appropriately and efficiently. This bill, HR 1429, was signed into law by the President on December 12, 2007.

I have appreciated working with countless Utah parents, teachers, and administrators on the importance of the program but also on ways to make it stronger and meet the needs of the community. These perspectives and stories have enhanced my understanding of the valuable role Head Start plays in the lives of disadvantaged children. I believe that Head Start is a program with a long-term record of success with enrollment correlating to IQ gains, improved high school graduation rates and higher achievement in writing, vocabulary and social skills.

I applaud my colleague, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for calling attention to this important program.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is said that we should judge a society by how it cares for its young, its old, and those who have difficulty caring for themselves. We have done much in the United States to care for our young citizens, but justice calls on us to do much more.

We know that, from 2000 to 2006, poverty increased by 10.7 percent, leaving 12.8 million children living in poverty. We know that one in three black children and one in four Latino children lives in poverty. We know that almost 12 million children under the age of five participate in some type of regular child care weekly. And we know that research demonstrates that high quality, comprehensive educational care for infants and toddlers can eliminate the achievement gap that exists between middle class and lower-income children.

Together these facts highlight that Federal support for quality care in the earliest years via Head Start and CCDBG is critical to help young children from low-income families arrive at kindergarten ready to learn and obtain a strong foundation for success in life. Despite the importance of early childhood care and education, Federal funding for these programs continues to lose ground. With nearly flat funding over the last several years, Head Start is

serving fewer children than it did in 2002. Despite an increase in the percentage of children under six with only working parents, Federal funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant has been effectively frozen since 2001.

These cuts affect Chicago and Illinois in very real, negative ways. In Chicago, just under 41,000 families with children under 5 live under the poverty line, yet only 17,000 of these children are served by Chicago Head Start. In Illinois, CCDBG served an average of 82,200 children in 2006, which is 20,000 fewer than it did just five years ago.

As policymakers, we should invest in families and children by bringing funding for Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) at least up to the inflation-adjusted levels at which they were funded in 2002. History will judge us harshly if we withhold key resources that we know can provide essential supports for our youngest citizens. During this Week of the Child, I urge my colleagues to reverse this trend and invest in children.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for two essential programs for our children and families—Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) and Head Start.

We know that early investments in our children pay off in the long run. Early childhood education programs increase school readiness and achievement, and improve cognitive and social skills needed for academic success. Investing in Head Start is a good investment, as for every \$1 spent we save nearly \$9. These benefits include less welfare dependency, lower crime rates, and a reduction in grade repetition and special education services.

CCDBG programs also offer a life line for many low income families. By offering subsidies for quality child care parents have broader employment opportunities which result in higher incomes, less turnover, and increased productivity. In addition, these funds are improving the quality, as well as the amount of child care available, to low income families.

In Texas, there are nearly 90,000 children enrolled in Head Start. Current proposed funding levels for Head Start in the FY 2009 Presidential Budget will leave this program in peril. If enacted at the President's requested level, 14,000 fewer children will be able to be enrolled in Head Start in 2009. Last year, Congress made many needed improvements to the Head Start program during reauthorization. Many of these improvements will not be enacted without a significant increase in funding.

CCDBG faces similar prospects if there is not an increase in funding. Wait lists for CCDBG programs continue to rise. In Texas, there are currently 15,000 children on a waitlist for child care assistance. If funding continues at current levels 300,000 fewer children nationally will receive child care assistance by 2010. Without this much needed assistance, parents will be forced to make increasingly difficult choices. Many will be forced into debt, will choose lower-quality child care, or end up back on welfare rolls.

Mr. Speaker, we must increase the resources to these programs. Flat funding for CCDBG and near-flat funding for Head Start over the past decade has left hundreds of thousands of children without needed assistance. Current economic conditions have hit

many of our low income families the hardest. Now, more than ever additional assistance is needed. I strongly encourage an increase in funding for these essential programs.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today, in California, 1.7 million children under age six require childcare because of working parents. Of these, nearly 200,000 are served in local programs that receive money from Child Care and Development Block Grants.

Mr. Speaker, you and I know that in the San Francisco Bay Area, most families rely on a minimum of two incomes just to make ends meet. In a time of rising gas and food prices and uncertain economic prospects, many are forced to take on additional jobs just to keep up.

Yet, the President's budget, for the sixth straight year, does not provide enough just to maintain the current level of services. In fact, the budget for Child Care and Development Block Grants falls \$41 million short and hasn't been adjusted for inflation since 2003.

Mr. Speaker, like most states, California can ill afford to pick up the slack, which in 2009 will total over four and half million dollars. Since 2002, our state has been on the hook for \$52.7 million.

Meanwhile, the president has provided just a 2.1 percent increase for Head Start, a program widely acknowledged as one of the most successful in the federal government. This won't even keep pace with inflation and falls woefully short of what is needed to catch up to the more than \$110 million in funding that California has lost relative to Fiscal Year 2002 funding.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the approximately 130,000 California children registered in Head Start and the benefit that early childhood education provides to our nation, I urge the Congress and President Bush to do all we can to adequately provide for this most important resource.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much to the Speaker, and we yield back the balance of our time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of personal business.

Ms. RICHARDSON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of family business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 5:30 p.m. on April 15 on account of official business with the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COURTNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 845. To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinating followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6045. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-8015] received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6046. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7761] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6047. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Rule Changes of Self-Regulatory Organizations [Release No. 34-57526; File No. S7-06-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ80) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6048. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updating OSHA Standards Based on National Consensus Standards [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0040] (RIN: 1218-AC08) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

6049. A letter from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

6050. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Labeling: Safe Handling Statements: Labeling of Shell Eggs [Docket No. 2004N-0382] (RIN: 0910-ZA23) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Part 121 — The United States Munitions List [Public Notice ] received April 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6052. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-019, Contracts with Religious Entities [FAC 2005-23; FAR Case 2006-019; Item II; Docket 2007-0001; Sequence 12] (RIN: 9000-AK66) received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6053. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-030, Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) [FAC 2005-23; FAR Case 2006-030; Item I; Docket 2007-0001, Sequence 9] (RIN: 9000-AK85) received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6054. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-23; Introduction [Docket FAR-2007-0002, Sequence 8] received January 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6055. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Locations and Hours; Changes in NARA Research Room Hours [Docket NARA-08-0001] (RIN: 3095-AB57) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6056. A letter from the OGE Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Technical Updating Amendments to Executive Branch Financial Disclosure and Standards of Ethical Conduct Regulations (RINs: 3209-AA00 and 3209-AA04) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6057. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Crow Tribe Abandoned Mine Land Reclama-

tion Plan [SATS No. CR-1-FOR; Docket ID OSM-2007-0019] received March 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6058. A letter from the Branch Chief of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Helianthus paradoxus (Pecos Sunflower) [[FWS-R2-ES-2008-0002] [92210-1117-0000-B4] (RIN: 1018-AV02) received April 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6059. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF82) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6060. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Final 2008 and 2009 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XD69) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6061. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF74) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6062. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF90) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6063. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-8032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF94) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6064. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment for Civil Monetary Penalties Under Sections 274A, 274B, and 274C of the Immigration and Nationality Act [EOIR Docket No. 165F; A.G. Order No. 2944-2008] (RIN: 1125-AA39) received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6065. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade & Comm'l Regs. Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — UNITED STATES — JORDAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT [DOCKET NUMBER USCBP-2007-0001 CBP Dec. 08-03] (RIN: 1505-AB75) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6066. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds — Minimum and Multiple Amounts Eligible for STRIPS, Legacy Treasury Direct, and Certification Requirements [Docket No. BPD GSRS 08-01] received March 17, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6067. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-20) received March 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6068. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Classification of Certain Foreign Entities [TD 9388] (RIN: 1545-BH24) received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6069. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — COORDINATED ISSUE PAPER ALL INDUSTRIES COST SHARING STOCK BASED COMPENSATION UIL 482.11-13 [LMSB-04-0208-005] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6070. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 — Transfer of Intangibles Offshore/ 482 Cost Sharing Buy-in Payment Issue Directive #2 [LMSB Control No. LMSB-4-0308-016 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6071. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue Foreign Tax Credit Generator Directive [LMSB Control No: LMSB-04-0208-003 Impacted IRM 4.51.5] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6072. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Partnership Audit Techniques Guide — Chapters 1, 2 and 7 [LMSB-04-0208-007] received March 25, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6073. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factor, Nonconventional Source Fuel Credit, and Reference Price for Calendar Year 2007 [Notice 2008-44] received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amplification of Notice 2006-52 Deduction for Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings [Notice 2008-40] received March 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6075. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services,



transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Issuance of Advisory Opinions by OIG — received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6076. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities [CMS-2278-IFC4] (RIN: 0938-AP22) received February 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6077. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Pertaining to Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers — received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*(Omitted from the Record of April 10, 2008)*

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3548. A bill to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-580). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[Filed on April 14, 2008]*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 281. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections; with an amendment (Rept. 110-581). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5036. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to reimburse certain jurisdictions for the costs of obtaining paper ballot voting systems for the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, to reimburse jurisdictions for the costs incurred in conducting audits or hand counting of the results of the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110-582, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 5715. A bill to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families (Rept. 110-583). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-584). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. Supplemental Report on H.R. 5719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty

standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-584 Pt. 2).

Ms. SUTTON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1102. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-585). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1103. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-586). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 1068. Resolution permitting active duty members of the Armed Forces who are assigned to a Congressional liaison office of the Department of Defense at the House of Representatives to obtain membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives; with amendments (Rept. 110-587). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5493. A bill to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration (Rept. 110-588). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5570. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the sunset in the special immigrant nonminister religious worker visa program; with amendments (Rept. 110-589). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

## DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Science and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5036 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

## TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

*(The following action occurred on April 11, 2008)*

H.R. 5577. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than May 30, 2008.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. AL

GREEN of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 5781. A bill to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. CANNON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. REHBERG, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and Mr. SALI):

H.R. 5782. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide for reciprocity in regard to the manner in which nonresidents of a State may carry certain concealed firearms in that State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL of California (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LATTI, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mrs. CUBIN):

H.R. 5783. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to make contributions to the Federal Government on their income tax returns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Mr. WYNN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 5784. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5785. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for providing volunteer service to military families through the America Supports You program of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 5786. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for

care packages provided for soldiers in combat zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 5787. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Ms. SUTTON):

H. Res. 1104. A resolution congratulating California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, recipients of the 2008 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. INSLEE):

H. Res. 1105. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting Earth Hour 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 1106. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

249. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 24 supporting the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

250. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Kansas, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1621 urging the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to halt the contract process for the Air Force mid-air refueling tanker until Congress and the President have reviewed and approved all the technical, security and economic aspects of the purchase; to the Committee on Armed Services.

251. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alabama, relative to a Resolution encouraging the Congress of the United States to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the jet tanker contract; to the Committee on Armed Services.

252. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Kansas, relative to Senate Resolution No. 1831 urging the Congress of the United States to amend the No Child Left Behind Act so that states will be allowed to continue to work toward the goal of closing the achievement gap without overly prescriptive federal rules, unfunded mandates and the coercion of losing federal funds; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

253. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to a Joint Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States amend the Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

254. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Guam, relative to Resolution No. 62 supporting H. Res. 121 expressing the sense that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

255. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 19 requesting the Congress of the United States authorize the establishment of a national monument for women in Washington, D.C., to recognize and honor the leadership contributions of America's women; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

256. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 99 memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass the "Clean Railroads Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

257. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28 memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

258. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 memorializing the Congress of the United States to review and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

259. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 22 memorializing the Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to protect and preserve the ability of California wineries, as well as all American wineries, to contribute to the economy of California and the nation by withdrawing the Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Number 77 and Number 78; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 245: Mr. KIND.  
H.R. 271: Mr. ROTHMAN.  
H.R. 351: Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 728: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 741: Mr. FILNER.  
H.R. 943: Mr. GOODE and Mr. SOUDER.  
H.R. 989: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.  
H.R. 992: Mr. DELAHUNT.  
H.R. 1032: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 1040: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma and Mr. MCCOUL of Texas.  
H.R. 1050: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. FATTAH.  
H.R. 1092: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.  
H.R. 1110: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 1142: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. MURTHA.  
H.R. 1148: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1264: Mr. ALTMIRE.  
H.R. 1279: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1283: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. GOODLATTE.  
H.R. 1295: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. RENZI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 1527: Mr. BOREN.  
H.R. 1553: Mr. BOREN and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 1576: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. BERMAN.  
H.R. 1590: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1600: Mr. HOLT.  
H.R. 1609: Ms. HARMAN, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.  
H.R. 1643: Mr. BERRY.  
H.R. 1653: Mr. HIGGINS.  
H.R. 1691: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 1738: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 1742: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 1783: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.  
H.R. 1820: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WU, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.  
H.R. 1869: Mr. PEARCE.  
H.R. 1927: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.  
H.R. 1929: Mr. PAUL.  
H.R. 2014: Mr. ADERHOLT.  
H.R. 2088: Mr. PICKERING.  
H.R. 2167: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 2169: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 2188: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MOLLOHAN.  
H.R. 2236: Mr. SERRANO.  
H.R. 2343: Mr. HINCHEY and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.  
H.R. 2477: Mr. CUMMINGS.  
H.R. 2548: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. FILNER.  
H.R. 2676: Mr. FILNER and Mr. WU.  
H.R. 2702: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 2706: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 2734: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. DREIER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. KUHL of New York.  
H.R. 2738: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 2744: Mr. STUPAK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RENZI, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H.R. 2792: Mr. WAXMAN.  
H.R. 2818: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 2833: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Mr. BARROW.  
H.R. 2905: Mr. LATTI.  
H.R. 2942: Mr. WAMP.  
H.R. 3001: Mr. PASTOR.  
H.R. 3014: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 3109: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 3175: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.  
H.R. 3282: Mr. PORTER.  
H.R. 3430: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3463: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3543: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. DOYLE.  
H.R. 3635: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 3642: Mr. EMANUEL.  
H.R. 3765: Mr. EMANUEL.  
H.R. 3820: Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. SPACE.  
H.R. 3865: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MARSHALL.  
H.R. 3874: Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 3960: Mrs. BLACKBURN.  
H.R. 4105: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. JOHN-SON of Georgia, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 4236: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. TOWNS.  
H.R. 4244: Mr. PLATTS.  
H.R. 4318: Mr. MCCARTHY of California and Mr. HOBSON.  
H.R. 4449: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. OLVER.  
H.R. 4790: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 4883: Mr. SPACE and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 4884: Mr. SPACE and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 4900: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HELLER.  
H.R. 4934: Mr. SIREN.  
H.R. 5033: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.  
H.R. 5057: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5131: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5161: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 5244: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. MEEK of Florida.

H.R. 5268: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5425: Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 5443: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5466: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 5469: Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 5488: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5496: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5499: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 5510: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5532: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 5534: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 5540: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 5544: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5554: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5561: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 5575: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 5580: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 5583: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5595: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 5598: Mr. RUSH, Ms. LEE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5602: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5609: Mr. ORTIZ.

H.R. 5613: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. WEINER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. TERRY, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5626: Mr. FARR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5656: Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. POE.

H.R. 5660: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5662: Mr. FILER.

H.R. 5668: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 5673: Ms. FOXX and Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.

H.R. 5684: Mr. REYES, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. SALAZAR.

H.R. 5686: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 5689: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5695: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 5696: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 5700: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 5717: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 5719: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 5722: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 5725: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 5731: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 5737: Mr. PORTER.

H.R. 5740: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. OBEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CARTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 5749: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PORTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KIND, and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 5769: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 5770: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 5771: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. J. Res. 12: Mr. SALLI.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 257: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. PLATTS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Con. Res. 318: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 322: Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. BEAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. LINDER.

H. Res. 356: Mr. CONAWAY.

H. Res. 653: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H. Res. 705: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H. Res. 758: Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 820: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 834: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. LOEBACK.

H. Res. 896: Mr. REYES.

H. Res. 937: Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 977: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Res. 987: Mr. DICKS and Ms. GIFFORDS.

H. Res. 1008: Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 1019: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 1022: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 1026: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. MEEK of Florida.

H. Res. 1044: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H. Res. 1048: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. BEAN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. FALOMAVEGA and Mr. LATTA.

H. Res. 1081: Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 1091: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. KIND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 1093: Ms. WATERS, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CLARKE, and Ms. DELAULO.

H. Res. 1095: Mr. BECERRA, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. STARK, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. BERMAN.

H. Res. 1096: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

SHULER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

## CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative FRANK of Massachusetts or a designee to H.R. 2634 the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

## PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

229. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the County Commission of Mobile, Alabama, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to consider the needs of the American war fighter, to affirm the selection process of the United States Air Force, and to support the creation of American jobs by moving all deliberate speed to fund and implement the KC-45 tanker project; to the Committee on Armed Services.

230. Also, a petition of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Florida, relative to Resolution No. R-137-08 urging the Florida Legislature to strengthen mortgage fraud laws; to the Committee on Financial Services.

231. Also, a petition of the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2007-131 urging the Congress of the United States to re-enact the Federal Assault Weapons Ban; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

232. Also, a petition of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Florida, relative to Resolution No. R-135-08 urging the Florida Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign into law legislation reinstating a property tax exemption for solar energy systems and other renewable energy systems and to streamline the process for applying for such an exemption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

233. Also, a petition of the City Council of New Orleans, Louisiana, relative to Resolution No. R-08-100 urging the Congress of the United States to appropriate 100% federal share for one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

234. Also, a petition of the City Council of the City of Pittsburgh, PA, relative to Resolution No. 2008-0111 urging the Congress of the United States to act quickly and efficiently in order to renew the Delta Queen's soon to expire exemption from the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

235. Also, a petition of the City Council of Atlanta, Georgia, relative to Resolution No. 08-R-0476 calling upon the Senate of the United States to introduce and pass the the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.



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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth, open our minds to the call of love that we may measure our attitudes and responses by this standard. Deliver us from the delusion that we are self-made and increase our dependence upon You.

Bless our Senators. May they give attention to their personal health and family relationships, as they seek to be Your instruments for good. Remind them that You alone, O Lord, have the wisdom and power needed at this critical hour. Assure them of Your presence, love, and grace in their labors. Give them fresh strength and vision, as You renew them by the power of Your spirit.

We pray in the Name of him in whom is all power in heaven and on Earth. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL, if he chooses to make some, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the highway bill.

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY SMITH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, amidst a great war that threatened to tear apart the fabric of our Nation, Abraham Lincoln gazed upon a battlefield and was moved to say:

My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope on earth.

Mr. President, on Monday, April 7, U.S. Army SGT Timothy Smith gave his life in pursuit of that dream. Sergeant Smith was 25 years old.

While serving in Iraq with the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th

Mountain Division, Sergeant Smith was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the armored vehicle in which he was riding with SGT Brandon Lords.

Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were brothers in arms, and they had made a pact that if one was lost in combat, the other would escort his body home. Sergeant Lords will honor that promise by accompanying his fallen comrade's body to South Lake Tahoe, where he will be received by his beloved family and friends before he is laid to rest.

Both Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Lords were emblematic of the courageous young men and women who serve in the U.S. military. My words are certainly insufficient to fully express our gratitude for their valor. Our hearts and prayers are with Tim's family.

Thursday night, at about 7 o'clock Washington time, I called and spoke to Michael, Tim's father. We had a very nice visit. I expressed my sympathy, and I said to Michael: You know, I have four boys, and I cannot comprehend what you are going through at this time. We talked for quite a long time, and he said, "Before you hang up, would you talk to Timmy's brother Tommy?" I said that I would be happy to. He was right there. So I talked to him for quite a long time. I told Tommy that I could appreciate what he was going through because I was one of four brothers. My brother Dale died unexpectedly in his midforties. I expressed to Tommy how, even today—on that Thursday night—I would like to be able to talk to my brother Dale, even though it has been more than two decades ago that he died. I can see in one of my boys my brother Dale's smile and the way he walks. So I could empathize much better with Tommy than I could with his dad.

We talked for quite a long time and he said, "Would you talk to Jackie?" That is their sister. We had a wonderful visit, talking about how sorry they

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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felt, how they will miss their brother. When I was getting ready to end the conversation with Jackie, she said, "Will you call Mom?" Her mother was visiting with Tim's wife in North or South Carolina—I forget which. So I called her when I hung up. We had another nice visit.

I told Michael, when I first called—and these calls are really hard to make. I have made a few of them, and they are difficult to make. This call was no easier than the others. It was sure a nice visit we had, in effect, crying on each other's shoulder. I think that is what these times are for, to be able to reflect on our loved and lost. So I indicated to each of those four to make sure they expressed to Tim's wife Shayna and their son Riley how our thoughts and prayers go out to her and the little boy.

Tim graduated in 2001 from South Tahoe High School. He joined the Army in April 2004—about 4 years ago. He is remembered by all as having a special sense of humor, for making people laugh, and really for his warmth. He was opinionated and strong, even from a young age. He was determined, courageous, and caring.

Tim married Shayna on the Fourth of July 2007. Their son Riley must now grow up to be a man without a father but with the gift of knowing his father was a real live American hero who gave his life for his country.

Honoring SGT Timothy Smith on the floor of the Senate is no more than a modest tribute to his great sacrifice. I hope it is some small comfort to those his life and courage touched that the Senate and the American people share the pain of their grief and the burden of their sacrifice.

In SGT Timothy Smith's memory, as I told his parents and brother and sister, we pray that every man and woman serving in Iraq will come home safely and soon.

#### CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune, earlier today, to have the first visit in a long time to the new Capitol Visitor Center.

When I first came to Washington many years ago and served as a Capitol policeman, every evening in the summer part of my duty was to go out on the east front of the Capitol and watch things. I can remember having many fond memories, such as watching Carl Hayden in his wheelchair watching those concerts. Even back then, I thought, gee, this is such a beautiful place.

The east front of the Capitol is so much easier for visitors coming to the Capitol to see than the west front because there are not those big steps. Before, it didn't look very nice. The blacktop covered that place. That just didn't look right—with cars parked there and oil spilled from the cars.

I had the good fortune, in the third year that I was a Senator, to become

chairman of the Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee. Back then, the reason I was able to do it was Senator Bumpers simply didn't want to do it. It was a great experience for me. I started working to do something to make the east front of the Capitol a little more visually nice. We did a number of things. First, we got the cars off.

With the help of many other Senators, we were able to finally get legislative permission to do something about it in a big way. The culmination of our being able to do that was when two police officers were killed on the House side, on the east front of the Capitol. That gave us the impetus to fund the project the way it should be funded. We did that. Now that is just great. It is so wonderful.

The Capitol Visitor Center is the eighth major expansion of the Capitol in its 214-year history. The last one was out here on the east front of the Capitol for the rooms we have there for holding meetings. This facility out here is almost 600,000 square feet of space. It is equivalent in size to the current footprint of the Capitol. It consists of beautiful sandstone, granite, and marble from 14 different States. The Capitol Visitor Center project conforms to "Buy American" standards. I saw a lot of beautiful things but probably the most beautiful on the tour this morning were the historic Olmstead fountains and lanterns. They have been beautifully restored and are going to be the centerpiece over there.

Mr. President, if someone wants to visit the Capitol today, there is no place for them to gather. It used to be on the east front, and now it is on the west front. The people who work here joke about it, saying: You can always tell when it is summertime because you can smell the visitors. The visitors stand out in the high humidity, heat, and they sweat. There is no place for them to go. The bathrooms in this facility are almost nonexistent. There is one on each side, and they are very small. This visitors center can hold 4,000 visitors at one time, and, with 8 magnetometers, they can process 2,000 people an hour. It will make this place vastly more secure than it is. We expect as many as 3 million visitors a year under the new process we will have here.

When visitors come here now, there is no place for them to eat, no place to go to the bathroom, and there are limited places to buy souvenirs. With our new facility, there will be a 550-seat cafeteria, with a beautiful kitchen that will be as good as anyplace there is in our country.

There is an 18,000-foot exhibition hall that will feature many never-seen-before historic documents, such as Madison's notes from the drafting of the Constitution.

There are two 250-seat orientation theaters. When people come to the Capitol, they will see an 11-minute film that is done so beautifully, and it will

tell them what they are going to see in the Capitol. That is as it should be. Now people walk in and don't know what to expect. There is a film they will see called "Out Of Many, One." It will be played every 11 minutes.

There are two beautiful gift shops—one on the House side and one on the Senate side—and 26 restaurants. There are meeting rooms for constituent meetings. The cost is a lot, about \$650 million. But in comparison, the Newseum, which was opened this past Friday, cost roughly \$550 million. It took 7 years to complete, and it did not have all the security problems we have had here.

I congratulate the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. They did a wonderful job. Everyone has cooperated. It is a facility of which we can all be proud. I enjoyed my visit through it. It will be an added feature of this beautiful building, and it will make it so people can come here safely and securely and all the many people who work in this Capitol and work in these office buildings will also certainly be more safe because there is a way to come in and there is adequate security.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Utah.

#### TAXES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, tomorrow is April 15, the day tax returns are due to the IRS for most citizens. It is a day most Americans meet with fear and loathing. Even though most taxpayers will not file their returns tomorrow because they have already done so or because they have filed for an extension, April 15 remains a symbol of a burdensome tax liability and an even more burdensome tax compliance system for millions of Americans.

April 15 is met with apprehension and dread for many reasons. The primary one is understandable. People do not like paying taxes. Who can blame them? Under the best of circumstances, if you owe Uncle Sam, a day spent with your tax return is worse than a day spent with the dentist. Yes, the IRS has become one of the most despised institutions in American life. However, a good share of this agency's reputation is undeserved. In fact, considering all we require the Internal Revenue Service to do and the resources we give them, the folks who work there do a pretty darn good job.

Paying taxes is never going to be popular, nor is it ever going to be fun. However, we all know it does not have to be as bad as it is. A great deal of the aggravation, a good share of the complexity, and much of the confusion is probably unnecessary.

I could spend many hours speaking about what is wrong with our tax system. It is, in military parlance, a target-rich environment. In fact, I expect we will hear a fair number of our colleagues speaking today and tomorrow on the Senate floor deploring the tax system. But amid all this denouncement of the IRS and the Tax Code, we in Congress should recognize an ugly truth; that is, a great deal of the blame for our far less than first-rate tax system lies right here with us, the Members of Congress who created it and who have the power to improve it.

I wish to focus on a disturbing trend we have seen growing much worse in recent years that is adding a great deal of stress to our already troubled tax system. This is the increasing tendency of the Congress to create temporary tax provisions and then allow them to expire while leaving taxpayers in limbo as to what the rules are going to be.

If we take a look at over the past dozen or so years, we see a growing proclivity on the part of Congress to enact tax provisions on a temporary basis rather than permanently. This has mostly been done to satisfy the often perverse demands of our budget rules.

But whatever the reasons, the effect of not extending these provisions before they expire has been greatly damaging to the tax system and to taxpayers' ability to understand and rely on the law. The effect has been to weaken this country economically and competitively.

Let us consider the research credit as an example. This is an important provision that has been in the law since the early 1980s, and it enjoys wide and bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

The research credit provides a strong incentive for businesses to increase their research and development activities in the United States. It probably is universally accepted that R&D investment is the lifeblood of high technology and is vital to the future of our economic leadership.

We all know this, and almost to a person, the Members in this body would say they support a strong, vibrant, effective, and permanent research system. Why then have we allowed this credit to expire 13 times?

Here we are, once again, in mid-April and our research credit has been expired since the end of last year. The worst part is, while we all believe it will be extended eventually, everyone knows the credit will not be made permanent, and the likelihood it will be allowed to expire again is very high.

In the meantime, many of our global trading partners have developed stronger and more permanent research

incentives in an attempt to lure away research from our shores. They perceive a weakness in our incentive system, and they are moving to capitalize on this very weakness. It appears these actions are working because we are seeing the amount of research activity in the United States growing much more slowly than it is overseas. We simply cannot afford to lose to other countries our research and the jobs that research brings.

Unfortunately, this problem goes way beyond the research credit. Each year, the Joint Committee on Taxation releases a list of expired and expiring tax provisions. The list for 2008 was 28 pages long and included an unbelievable 145 provisions. By contrast, the list released in 2003 was 13 pages and featured 71 provisions. Fifteen years ago, there would not have been much of a list at all.

Our habit of adding new expiring provisions in the tax law is out of control and, worse, our refusal to deal with extending these provisions on a timely basis well before they expire is inexcusable.

It is the obligation of the majority party in Congress to operate the legislative trains so they run on time and produce laws on which our people can at least rely, if not be proud of. While there is blame to spread between both parties in this area of expired tax provisions, which have such a degenerating effect on our already shaky tax system, we all know who is at fault for the current fiasco.

I do not think anyone in this body will have trouble recalling the weeks-long standoff that occurred late last year over the so-called AMT patch. All of us, though, would probably prefer to forget it if we could.

Instead of addressing the issue of alternative minimum tax and its expired thresholds early on, which would have lent a degree of certainty to an already obnoxious and insidious tax, the Democrats last year dithered on both the AMT patch and on the other soon-to-expire provisions.

The result was a last-minute agreement on the AMT patch that put this year's tax filing season in jeopardy, greatly confused the American taxpayers, and left behind the other now-expired tax provisions. Perhaps most stunningly irresponsible was the fact that we took care of the AMT patch for 2007 only, and now we are facing the same scenario for this year. It must have been so much fun last year that we want to do it again in 2008.

I am very aware of the arguments surrounding the question of whether extending these provisions should be offset, and I will address those on another day.

Today, however, on the eve of America's most hated day, I call on my colleagues, and especially those on the other side of the aisle, to consider why this is so and what it is we are not doing that is the reason why the words "April 15," "IRS," and "Congress" are among the least popular in the lexicon.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized following the remarks of the Senator from Oregon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for the next 33 hours, millions of Americans will face mindless, relentless, needless tax torture trying to shovel their way out from under an avalanche of bureaucratic forms as they struggle to complete their taxes.

Citizens Against Government Waste has calculated that Americans spend 4.3 billion hours each year filing their tax returns and complying with our tax laws. That is a lot of time to spend on something that is about as interesting as prolonged root canal work.

My guess is many Americans would rather read the phonebook than our Tax Code, and the phonebook is actually a lot shorter. So I am going to give one example of the heavy reading Americans have in front of us over the next 33 hours.

The alternative minimum tax, of course, is a killer tax for millions of Americans. It calculates taxable income differently than the regular tax. It adds a whole new layer of complexity to the Code and headache for our citizens. So I am going to read one of the portions of the AMT rules that clobber our middle-class taxpayers, and it is the one that is used to calculate the size of the interest deduction middle-income folks are allowed in our country.

Under section (C), it reads:

In determining the amount allowable as a deduction for interest, subsections (d) and (h) of section 163 shall apply, except that—

(i) in lieu of the exception under section 163(h)(2)(D), the term "personal interest" shall not include any qualified housing interest (as defined in subsection (e)),

(ii) sections 163(d)(6) and 163(h)(5) (relating to phase-ins) shall not apply,

(iii) interest on any specified private activity bond (and any amount treated as interest on a specified private activity bond on under section 57(a)(5)(B), and any deduction referred to in section 57(a)(5)(A), shall be treated as includible in gross income (or as deductible) for purposes of applying section 163(d),

(iv) in lieu of the exception under section 163(d)(3)(B)(i), the term "investment interest" shall not include any qualified housing interest (as defined in subsection (e)), and

(v) the adjustments of this section and sections 57 and 58 shall apply in determining net investment income under section 163(d).

It is obvious to all who are still awake at this point, since I have gone through just one of the sections, this is not exactly clarity in American Government. I cannot find anybody who can get through this. I would go through it again, but I only have 10



minutes since our friend, Senator CORNYN, is here for his remarks.

These words were actually written by a human being. The only thing more bizarre than the fact somebody thought they made sense was the language was then made law by another group called the Congress. So there is a reason the dictionary definition of the adjective "taxing" means "wearingly burdensome."

This burden is especially hard on small businesses. Small businesses are the engine that keeps our country going, but it is amazing they can move at all under the weight of what the Tax Code subjects them to.

The National Association of the Self-Employed is today releasing results of a survey of their members that shows what the 45 million small businesses and self-employed persons are going through with their taxes.

The group's survey, for example, found that almost one in five people who had gone to the IRS to get answers to their tax questions got conflicting responses, sometimes even from the same office.

The time small businesses waste complying with the tax laws is mind-boggling. Thirty-one percent of them recently said they spent 20 percent or more of their time every week on paperwork and other tax-related preparations. That is 1 day a week totally lost to tax preparation. That is a huge penalty that is being imposed on small business for complying with the rules of the IRS.

Another group suffering with our Tax Code is our older people. During the 2004 tax year, the IRS mailed 200,000 error notices to older Americans who miscalculated their taxes. Mr. President, 34,000 went to taxpayers who received the same notice in 2 tax years; 10,000 went to taxpayers who received it in 3 tax years.

What does all this tell you? It tells you the IRS cannot make their explanations understandable to the Nation's older people.

There was one word that kept coming up in this survey over and over. The people surveyed said: You have to simplify the Code, simplify our tax system.

That is what I am trying to do with the legislation I have introduced as a Member of the Senate Finance Committee. It is called the Fair Flat Tax Act, and it eases the burden on our taxpayers by offering them a simplified 1040 Form. Instead of this kind of mumbo-jumbo, it is 1 page, 30 lines for every individual taxpayer. The folks over at Money magazine, the financial publication, took the one-page 1040 form in the fair flat tax, and they could fill out their taxes in just 15 minutes.

The legislation makes our code flatter. It collapses the current system of six individual tax brackets down to three. The fair flat tax eliminates scores and scores of special interest tax breaks. The revenue derived from these changes is used to hold down the rates for everybody and keep progressivity.

More importantly, with the fair flat tax everybody in America has a chance to get ahead. There is a new opportunity with this legislation to promote economic growth, to grow the American economic pie, which is especially important during these times of great economic uncertainty.

One last point. For all of us on the Finance Committee—and I think Senators of both parties understand this—there is a Tax Code meltdown coming. The child tax credit ends in 2010, the marriage penalty roars back in 2011, and it comes back harsher than ever. The same meltdown is going to hit other income taxes—capital gains, dividend taxes—and if Congress doesn't come up with a thoughtful and responsible bipartisan solution, there is going to be new chaos in the world of taxes.

I have tried this afternoon to be a little bit lighthearted in discussing what is certainly a pretty dry topic for most Americans. But when you look at what they are going through tonight, if you are middle class and you are dealing with AMT, this is obviously not a laughing matter. The people of this country need tax reform, and they need it now. The fair flat tax would make our system simpler, fairer, and more pro-growth. It makes sense for individuals, for families, and the businesses of our country. The Congress cannot any longer ignore the tax meltdown that is coming. It is time to fix the broken American tax system and eliminate this kind of needless suffering that so many of our citizens are going to endure over the next 33 hours.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CORNYN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2852 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### COLOMBIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have been listening to my friend and colleague, Senator WYDEN, talk, and I am going to study his bill. It sounds like it is an answer to a long overdue problem and one that, as he said, is a train wreck getting ready to happen. This is something we ought to be able to work on in a bipartisan fashion, and I look forward to studying his proposal.

I want to spend just a few minutes talking about another important issue when it comes to our economy and job creation, and that is the Colombian Free Trade Agreement, which the Speaker of the House, last week, said she would not allow to come to the floor of the House of Representatives.

It now remains indefinite as to when, if ever, that free-trade agreement would be allowed to come to the floor.

It is very important for the public to understand that this is more than just about free trade. It does, not coincidentally, create a market in Colombia for about \$2.3 billion in goods and farm commodities sold by the State of Texas into Colombia. And because of a previous Andean Free Trade Agreement, actually Colombian goods coming into the United States bear no duty or tariff, but goods made or grown in Texas or throughout the United States currently bear a duty that would be eliminated by this Colombian Free Trade Agreement.

Now, that is important because it creates jobs and opportunity in the United States. It levels the playing field, and it creates a situation where Colombia and the United States can become equal partners when it comes to commerce and international trade.

But this is important for many other reasons. Because of the war on terror, much of our attention recently, of course, has been focused on the Middle East. But we must be careful not to neglect other parts of the world that are also very important to U.S. security and our economic prosperity, and that is particularly the case in our own hemisphere. Not the least of these important regions is one of the closest to us; that is, Latin America. Unfortunately, Latin America's close proximity hasn't always translated into close ties and friendships. We have seen firsthand and heard firsthand how some Latin American leaders—most notably Hugo Chavez of Venezuela—have taken strong stances against the United States. That is one reason it is so important we embrace wholeheartedly our friends and allies and partners in the region.

Countries that share our focus on freedom and democracy and work with us to fight against terrorism and the spread of narcotics need our support to counter those who support, tacitly or otherwise, the spread of hateful anti-American ideology and militant extremism and criminal drug cartels. We must remember, if we do not stand with our friends, if we do not stay involved in Latin America, someone else will.

Already, nations such as China and Iran have dramatically increased their alliances and influence within the region. Not long ago, President Ahmadinejad of Iran toured Latin America, strengthening Iran's ties to the likes of Hugo Chavez and leaders of the terrorist group known as FARC.

Not long ago, I met with the commander of the U.S. Southern Command, the U.S. military official who is in charge of that region from the standpoint of the Department of Defense, Admiral James Stavridis, and I talked with him about current issues, current developments, and challenges that our Nation faces in his area of responsibility, which includes Latin

America. He made it very clear to me that there is a real threat of the spread of terrorism in Latin America. A major component of that threat that remains is this so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in short.

It is noteworthy that recently, when Colombian forces tracked down FARC rebels who happened to be across the border in Ecuador, they confiscated not only some computers, but they were able to confiscate 66 pounds of uranium in the hands of the FARC in Latin America. That is something that ought to cause all of us pause, and ask a lot of questions—for what purpose did they have 66 pounds of uranium in Latin America?

The FARC continues to carry out terrorist attacks throughout the region, which has caused the death of numerous innocent Colombians. They finance their terrorist activities through two of the most despicable forms of criminal activity imaginable—kidnapping and selling deadly drugs. Worst of all, the FARC continues to find sanctuary from Colombian prosecution inside neighboring countries such as Venezuela. If we do not stand firmly behind Colombia, we will see the advance of both terrorist organizations in Latin America and the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States.

If drug smuggling were not enough to convince us of the need to support our friends and allies in Colombia, we should consider the potential boost to terrorist organizations throughout the world that might otherwise occur. Through lessons learned in the poppy fields of Afghanistan, we have been made painfully aware that the drug trade often finances global terrorism. Without a strong ally in Colombia to fight the expansion of drug cartels and terrorist-backed drug trade, global terrorism will find new financial roots from which to grow and carry out its murderous plans.

I have had the privilege of traveling to Colombia and meeting with President Uribe personally. He affirmed to me his commitment to fighting back against illegal drugs and terrorism in his own country, and he expressed a sincere desire to continue to work closely with the United States.

We have a chance now to further solidify that purpose with our best ally in Latin America. The Colombian people have heard the call to democracy and freedom and they are taking it seriously. We owe it to them and we owe it to ourselves to demonstrate that the United States is a nation they can depend on.

While there is no doubt that more can be done to fully cement the principles of equality and justice, their commitment to the very same principles and rights we hold dear in this country is undeniable. The Colombian people deserve our firm support and it is time for the United States to enter into a free trade agreement with them.

As I mentioned last year, Texas led the Nation in exports to Colombia.

Even with damaging Colombian tariffs, Texas manufacturers and farmers sold \$2.3 billion worth of products to that nation. This agreement will remove those tariffs and allow Texas manufacturers and producers to sell even more goods to this large and growing market. When this market is open, employers will be able to hire more Texans to work in good, high-paying jobs, right here at home.

I might add, at a time when we are concerned about immigration into the United States by people who cannot find work where they live, this is another way for us to deal with our border security issues and our broken immigration system, by creating trading partners who are able to create jobs in Latin America so people do not have to come to the United States to find hope and opportunity.

Already, Colombia has been granted one-way preferential access to our markets. That country has added jobs to keep pace with growing trade in the United States and now it is time to bring it full circle. This agreement will implement two-way trade and it will level the playing field for our own manufacturers and exporters and create jobs right here at home. At a time when our economy has suffered a bit of a downturn, it strikes me as something desirable, to look for ways to bolster, indeed increase, jobs right here at home. This free trade agreement would be one way to do that.

Open trade helps boost the economy and it is an essential ingredient to the growth of businesses, jobs, and our economy in general. But despite the numerous positive aspects to this agreement with Colombia, some of my colleagues continue to fight against it. In any other setting, it would be comical to lay side by side their complaints against this partnership with their vows to work with foreign governments, to supposedly improve our image in the world. While many of those on the left have vowed to work with enemies such as Hugo Chavez and sit down with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, they balk at the prospect of strengthening ties and working with our greater Latin American ally. How ironic indeed. It would seem their willingness to pander to some supersedes their desire to restore our image internationally. Shouldn't we be more willing to work with our friends and allies than our enemies?

Now, more than a year after the President first began working with Congress on this agreement, and 90 days away from our scheduled recess, the majority is outraged. Speaker PELOSI particularly is outraged that this agreement is on the fast track and the President actually asked they vote on the agreement. It is sometimes comically tragic to compare the work we do here in Washington with the jobs ordinary Americans do every day. Only in Congress would a 3-month deadline not be enough to finish a project that started about a year ago.

I hope the Speaker of the House will reconsider and not take the Colombian free trade agreement with all of its ramifications as merely a negotiating chip she can use against other projects in which she is interested. We have seen that happen already with the Foreign Intelligence Act modernization. The failure of the House to pass that bill has left us literally deaf to emerging terrorist activity that cannot be monitored because of the failure to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Why the Speaker of the House would compound that mistake and add insult to injury now by sticking a thumb in the eye of one of our greatest trading partners and allies in Latin America frankly escapes me.

I hope she will reconsider. This free trade agreement is in the best interests of the United States. It will help create jobs here at home during a time of a softening economy. It will allow us to have a closer working partnership with one of our best allies in the region and to demonstrate to the likes of Hugo Chavez and Raoul Castro that being a friend to America produces some reward, which is closer economic ties and a better quality of life and security for all.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

#### FLAT TAX

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today most Americans are struggling with filling out their tax returns which are due tomorrow. This week I am introducing legislation that will make it possible for an American taxpayer to file his or her tax return on one page, a one-page optional flat tax on individuals and businesses at the rate of 19 percent for the first two years and 17 percent thereafter. Think what a change that would be. Taxpayers spend an average of over 26 hours to complete tax returns; and 13.6 hours just to complete form 1040.

Think how different it would be to simply fill out one page and turn that in. In 2005, taxpayers spent 6 billion hours and approximately \$265 billion to comply with the Tax Code. Think how much extra leisure time or productive work time we could have if every American had the option of a one-page simplified tax return.

Mr. President, \$705 was the estimated compliance cost for a Tennessean in 2005. And operating costs for the Internal Revenue Service almost tripled between 1970 and 2004. Think how much money we would save if every American had the option of filing a one-page, 17-percent flat tax and if every American business had the option of doing the same.

Here is what the optional flat tax legislation I will be introducing this week will do. As I mentioned earlier, it will simplify the Tax Code by providing an optional flat tax on individuals and

businesses. It will be a 19-percent flat tax for the first 2 years, 17 percent flat tax after the first 2 years, and it would create the option to file, as I mentioned, a simple one-page return.

The legislation I am introducing is almost identical to H.R. 1040 introduced by Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS, a Republican from Texas, in the House of Representatives. Congressman BURGESS introduced his legislation on February 2007 and it has six cosponsors.

My legislation is very straightforward. If an individual selects the option to pay a flat tax in lieu of the current income tax, the option is irrevocable. Under the flat tax, taxable income has a very simple definition. It will consist simply of wages and pensions. You do not start paying taxes on your income—wages and pensions—until you reach a certain exemption level. For a married couple filing jointly, the exemption level is \$25,580, indexed to inflation. For the single head of a household, you wouldn't start paying taxes until you reached \$16,330, indexed for inflation; for a single person, \$12,790, indexed for inflation; and \$5,510 for each dependent.

For example, a family of four would not pay the flat tax until the family's combined income reached \$36,600. That is \$25,580 for joint filers plus \$5,510 times two for the two dependents. No other deductions would exist.

This optional flat tax would eliminate the marriage penalty, so it is pro-family. This optional flat tax would eliminate the millionaires tax, which was put in place in the late 1960s to catch a few millionaires and today is catching millions of middle-class Americans. It is called the alternative minimum tax or AMT.

The optional flat tax for businesses is equally straightforward. It gives the business the option to pay a flat tax in lieu of the current corporate tax structure. Once a business selects this option, it is irrevocable. As it is on the individual income tax form, there is a 19-percent tax rate for the first 2 years and then a 17-percent tax rate for all other years. Businesses would be taxed on the difference of total revenue minus expenses—again, a very simple definition of income. Expenses would include wages, pensions, and the costs of new business equipment. This would provide for the immediate expensing of business capital equipment. This immediate expensing should be a very pro-growth provision in our Tax Code—rather than the current Code which requires spreading it out over a number of years. No other deductions would exist.

The current tax system is overly complicated and lengthy. The Tax Code and corresponding regulations are over 67,000 pages and include 7 million words. It was only 400 pages in 1913 when the Federal income tax was first introduced, and it has now grown to over 67,000 pages.

Taxpayers are expected to understand and comply with this com-

plicated Tax Code and it gets increasingly impossible to do. That is why I, and a great many Americans and American businesses, will welcome the opportunity to file a one-page, simplified flat tax in lieu of the current system.

The optional flat tax that I propose is intended to be revenue neutral. It is intended, in other words, neither to raise more revenues than the current tax system or less revenues than the current tax system. Arguably, a simpler tax will raise more revenues because a great many people pay less in taxes because they simply do not understand the forms. But the intention of my legislation is that the taxes collected, the revenue level, will be the same.

Finally, I urge that our nation's revenue level is not about to stay the same. Already the largest share of the average American's budget goes to pay taxes. Taxes are high. Americans currently spend 113 days of every year working to pay their Federal, State, and local taxes—almost twice the number of days they work to pay for housing and more than three times the number of days they work to pay for food.

Beginning in 2010, the amount of time Americans currently spend working to satisfy their tax bills will increase as millions of lower- and middle-income Americans and small businesses face significant tax hikes. Democratic leaders in Congress have already allowed the state and local sales tax exemption, which affects Tennesseans, to expire. That is \$400 a year for 600,000 Tennesseans, and the Democrats appear to be ready to let tax relief for millions of lower and middle-income Americans meet the same fate when those tax levels expire in 2010.

Failure of Congress to act to stop these tax hikes will result in the largest tax increase in United States history, and that is one of the worst things we could do to the family budget. Taxes are too high today and we are about to face the largest tax increase in United States history.

But while we are debating tax issues in the Senate, we can do something much simpler so that next year, when Americans go about completing their tax returns, they do not spend an average of 26 hours. Instead, they fill out one page. They do not take an average of 13.6 hours to complete form 1040; they fill out one page. Compliance costs are not \$265 billion; they are dramatically reduced. Compliance costs for Tennesseans, \$705 dollars in 2005, go down by hundreds of dollars a year.

The operating costs of the IRS ought to be cut, instead of increasing, as they review one-page optional tax forms. The same would be true for businesses who also would have the option of filing a flat 17 percent tax, on one page. So as we look ahead to tomorrow and filing our tax returns, and we think about the upcoming debate about whether to stop the largest tax in-

crease in history, let's get on a constructive page and say to the American people: By this time next year, April 15, 2009, you will have the option of filing a one-page Federal income tax return with a 19-percent rate for 2 years and 17 percent rate thereafter; businesses will get the same thing.

It will save money. It will encourage growth, and it will relieve a great deal of anxiety that occurs every spring when April 15 rolls around.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WEBB. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BOXER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WEBB. I thank the Chair.

#### FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2008

Mr. WEBB. Madam President, as we approach the anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy, I am introducing legislation to implement one of the key recommendations from the Virginia Tech Review Panel that was formed by Gov. Tim Kaine to examine some of the issues that arose following the shooting.

It is exactly 1 year this week when a disturbed young man took the lives of 32 students and faculty and wounded several others on the campus of Virginia Tech. I commend the Virginia Tech community for pulling through such a difficult time and for the tremendous amount of courage they displayed. I also wish to extend my continuing sympathy to the families of the students and faculty who were directly impacted by these shootings.

On April 19, 2007, 3 days after the Virginia Tech shooting, Governor Kaine announced the formation of the Virginia Tech Review Panel to perform a review of the events of April 16. This panel included individuals with the expertise and autonomy necessary to conduct a comprehensive review. These nationally recognized individuals brought expertise in many areas, including law enforcement, security, governmental management, mental health, emergency care, victims' services, the Virginia court system, and higher education.

The genesis for the legislation I am introducing is the report prepared by this panel and released to the public in August 2007. A similar report was prepared for President Bush by the Attorney General and the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Education in follow-up to meetings with

various experts across the country. Both reports documented serious concerns from individuals in various communities throughout Virginia and the Nation regarding the treatment of student medical records.

One main theme that kept resonating in various communities was concern with the appropriate balance between providing for the safety of our communities while at the same time protecting privacy rights. Too many college administrators are unsure how to balance the right to privacy against public safety, and Federal law and regulations are of little help.

This bill simply attempts to clear up any ambiguity that currently exists within the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, known as FERPA, which allows for the sharing of student educational records in order to protect the health or safety of a student or the general public.

FERPA, written in 1974, was created at a time when schools did not provide the health care services they do today. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Schools today, whether they are K-12 or a post-secondary institution, have critical student health records in their hands.

It is important for Congress to ensure that we provide our school officials, administrators, and counselors clear Federal guidelines to protect the privacy and to ensure the safety of our students. My bill attempts to address the concerns raised by school officials, administrators, and institutions in interpreting FERPA.

If one looks back at the recommendations of the Virginia Tech Review Panel, one notices that a key resounding issue is the misinterpretation of Federal and State privacy laws. My bill does three things to amend FERPA so that tragic situations such as the one at Virginia Tech are less likely to occur. First, it adds an explicit "safe harbor" provision to make clear that no violation of FERPA occurs if a school official discloses information in a good-faith belief that it is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or the general public. Second, it clarifies how FERPA applies to student treatment records held for treatment purposes. Third, it clarifies the emergency exception in FERPA to emphasize that in an emergency, information-sharing is allowed if done in a good-faith belief that doing so will protect against a possible threat to the health or safety of a student or the general public.

This is a straightforward attempt to address several recommendations that were made by the Virginia Tech Review Panel in clarifying the widespread perception that information privacy laws make it difficult to respond effectively to troubled students. It is important for school officials to use their best professional judgment in deciding when to disclose or not to disclose in-

formation without fear of violating Federal educational privacy laws.

There is widespread agreement that existing law is in need of clarification. In this regard, I note that the Department of Education proposed a rule on March 24 of this year, which is an attempt to clarify and give guidance to university administration on what they can and cannot do in handling treatment records. I believe this bill is a more direct and effective way to achieve that desired clarity.

Together with the passage of the Mental Health Parity Act in both the House and Senate and other measures to ensure access to mental health services, my bill will be a good step in addressing this growing issue of mental disorders that is all too common in many communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate for quick passage of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Amendments of 2008.

Madam President, I yield the floor, I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### HIGHWAY TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 608, a bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. That means I would have how much time now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 23 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am glad you are in the chair. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, you have been very involved in everything we have done so far and we will do in the future, in

terms of rebuilding the infrastructure of this Nation, building a transit infrastructure, and some of the other things that we do.

I am very pleased the majority leader has called for a motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008. On August 10, 2005, President Bush signed into law the SAFETEA-LU Act, which authorized our Nation's highways, transit, and highway safety programs through the end of 2009.

We all know a country cannot be great if it does not have the physical infrastructure to move people and to move goods and to be efficient. The funding provided in SAFETEA-LU is currently being used on highway and transit projects that clearly increase our economic productivity, create thousands and thousands of new jobs, and improve America's quality of life.

It has been several years since SAFETEA-LU was signed into law, and we on the committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and on the Banking Committee and on the Commerce Committee, have worked across party lines to identify the technical corrections that need to be made. These include updating of project descriptions, adjustments to some of the legislative language, and in some cases where projects could not move forward Members have said we have other projects that are ready to move forward. That is why this bill is so important.

If we do not do this bill, we are simply going to languish until the next highway bill in a couple of years, and we are going to waste time. We do not have time to waste. The issues need to be addressed to ensure that various programs authorized in SAFETEA-LU are being carried out according to congressional intent and are not bogged down in unintended consequences.

In an effort to address the issues identified since the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 1195 in March of 2007 by a voice vote. The legislation was subsequently amended and approved by voice vote in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in June of 2007. That is the committee I chair, and my ranking member, Senator INHOFE, and I have worked very closely on this and other infrastructure matters.

My remarks today are on the Technical Corrections Act of 2008, which has been filed as an amendment in the nature of a complete substitute to H.R. 1195. This amendment mirrors the earlier technical corrections legislation approved by the Senate and House committees but has been updated for the fiscal year, and it addresses additional issues which have been discovered since H.R. 1195 was first approved by the House and considered by our committee.

I truly believe this is a straightforward, noncontroversial bill that corrects technical issues, confirms congressional intent, and moves us forward. It is foolish for us to ignore this bill or to try to stop this bill because it doesn't cost an additional penny. The funding comes through the highway trust fund, and that funding is there. If we do not make these technical corrections, a lot of projects simply will be stalled. At a time when our economy is in trouble, we should be moving ahead.

Senator INHOFE and I have worked very closely with the bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Transportation Infrastructure to craft this legislation that we bring to the floor as a substitute. We have also worked closely with Chairman DODD and Ranking Member SHELBY of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member STEVENS of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation because we wanted to ensure that corrections to SAFETEA-LU that fell within their jurisdiction were all included in this legislation.

I say to my friends who may be listening to this debate, this is truly a bipartisan bill. It is more than a bipartisan bill, it involves three different committees and all of us want to see this move ahead. Again, the legislation does not increase overall spending by the Federal Government. It works within the confines of the existing SAFETEA-LU authorization. Changes which restore funding left out of SAFETEA-LU are paid for through the use of existing funds. If anybody says to colleagues we are spending more, we are not. We are simply making it possible for us to fulfill our promises we made to the American people several years ago when we told them we were funding a highway and transit bill.

Project changes are usually made because of State and local authorities who have told us that changes are necessary. This legislation emanates in many ways from the people back home. Let me give an idea of one of the issues that is very important in this legislation. It will fix an oversight in SAFETEA-LU that resulted in the Surface Transportation Research, Development and Deployment Account being oversubscribed. This means funding is not available for the Federal Highway Administration to conduct its legacy research programs and research activities. This legislation corrects the issue by removing the Future Strategic Highway Research Program from the Surface Transportation Research Development and Deployment Account and, instead, funds it through funds already allocated for core highway programs. This will free up about \$50 million per year, enough funding to finance the remaining programs and projects in the Surface Transportation Research Development and Deployment Account and will allow DOT, the Department of Transportation, to continue its important legacy research

programs and activities, including the biennial Conditions and Performance Report.

What is the Conditions and Performance Report? It is a report that provides an appraisal of highway, bridge, and transit finance, the physical condition of roads and bridges and their operational performance, and estimates of future investment requirements. That will provide crucial information on the current conditions and future needs of our national transportation system as we develop the next transit and highway safety bill. We will need this information. It will be crucial to setting priorities in the next highway bill.

Remember, we have seen bridges in our Nation collapsing. We have seen bad problems in our infrastructure. We need to make sure we have a very fair appraisal of the condition of our roads, the condition of our bridges, what it is going to cost to fix them before we go into our next funding cycle, our full funding cycle which will occur in 2009.

The legislation also fixes and modifies descriptions for highway and transit projects that were included in SAFETEA-LU but have not yet been completed. Without the changes included in this legislation, many of these projects are stuck at a red light. Until that light turns green, the benefits to the transportation system will not be realized.

This technical corrections legislation provides a green light that could unleash up to \$1 billion into the economy. Remember, this is not new spending. This is freeing up the dollars we already voted to spend on transportation projects, transit projects, highway projects. This is funding that has already been provided through SAFETEA-LU. It is not new money, but if we do not act, simply speaking, \$1 billion of important highway and transportation programs will simply not be spent.

Given the current slowdown in our economy, we can't afford to let these funds remain unused due to technical matters. Just last month, President Bush acknowledged that we must respond decisively to the economic downturn we are going through. Investing in infrastructure is one of the best ways to stimulate our economy. Infrastructure investments provide immediate economic stimulus through job creation and long-term economic benefits through reduced transportation costs.

In the past, the Department of Transportation has told us that for every \$1 billion in Federal spending on transportation infrastructure, 47,500 jobs are created. It may be that the number is slightly smaller now due to inflation, but in any event we know it is tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

The benefits of infrastructure investment stay in America. Infrastructure investment creates American jobs and helps American businesses that produce most of the construction materials and equipment used in our Nation.

Finally, I would like to point out again—again—that this legislation will not increase spending. I have to say that over and over again, and it complies with earmark disclosure requirements of rule XLIV even though it only addresses changes to previously authorized projects.

I thank Senator DEMINT for giving me a call this morning and saying that he was very pleased with the way our committee handled this disclosure. I was very pleased with that call, and I thank him for it.

I urge my colleagues to support the technical corrections that have been included in this legislation so we can make the final changes needed to complete SAFETEA-LU and then turn our Nation to the next highway transit and highway safety authorization bill to be completed in the next Congress.

What I want to do is have put into the RECORD, if I might, Mr. President, without objection, a very important letter that comes from some very important constituents of all of ours.

I am going to show you sent this letter. I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 1, 2008.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Majority Leader,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,  
Chairwoman, Environment & Public Works  
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,  
Chairman, Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs  
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DANIEL K. INOUE,  
Chairman, Commerce, Science & Transportation  
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Republican Leader,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,  
Ranking Member, Environment & Public Works  
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,  
Ranking Member, Banking, Housing & Urban  
Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. TED STEVENS,  
Ranking Member, Commerce, Science & Transportation  
Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: We are writing to urge you to schedule a vote on HR 1195 making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59) as soon as possible.

Since enactment of SAFETEA-LU in August of 2005, Congress has worked diligently to pass into law corrections to SAFETEA-LU so that full implementation of important transportation programs and policies is possible. To address our Nation's transportation needs and challenges the full benefit of our transportation programs and policies in SAFETEA-LU is needed.

Congress' commitment to improving our transportation systems through the programs and policies it provided in SAFETEA-LU can be enhanced. We stand ready to continue to support this commitment.

Sincerely,  
American Association of Highway and  
Transportation Officials.  
American Highways Users Alliance.  
American Public Transit Association.

American Road and Transportation Builders Associations.

Associated General Contractors.

Council of University Transportation Centers.

National Sand, Stone and Gravel Association.

National Asphalt and Pavement Association.

Mrs. BOXER. This is the group who sent the letter. I want to say who it is, who signed this letter: No. 1, the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials; that is departments of transportation in all 50 States—red States, blue States, purple States—50 States signed this letter. They want us to move forward. No. 2, the American Highway Users Alliance; that is millions of highway users throughout this Nation of ours; the American Public Transit Association, which is transit systems from across the country, in all of our States; the American Road and Transportation Builders Associations, more than 5,000 members of the transportation construction industry. We know our construction industry in the housing sector is hurting. That means the jobs are decreasing. This is a moment in time where we can give a little boost to our transportation workers; the Associated General Contractors, more than 32,000 of them, service providers and suppliers; Council of University Transportation Centers, more than 30 university transportation centers from across the country; the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, companies that produce more than 92 percent of crushed stone and 75 percent of sand and gravel used in the U.S. annually; and the National Asphalt and Pavement Association, more than 1,100 companies that produce and pave with asphalt.

Mr. President, I say to Senators who might hear my voice, this a moment for us to come together across party lines such as Senator INHOFE and I have done, just as Senators DODD and SHELBY have done and just as Senators INOUE and STEVENS have done in our respective committees. This is a simple bill. This bill simply says we have about \$1 billion that is stuck because there have been some technical problems with the language. Some projects were not able to move forward. We substitute some others within the same funding cap. Some have legislative language which was confusing, and we are dealing with that. We feel very good about this bill.

We have listened very carefully to the ethics in the Senate. We know we needed to act to put all these projects on the Web site. We have identified who has asked for them, and we really do believe this technical corrections bill is ready for action. I can only hope that we will not see anybody try to hold up this bill for no reason at all.

If you have amendments, please let us know. We would be happy to give you as much time as you want. Today is the motion to proceed to the bill. We urge everyone to vote for that, and

that vote will occur, as I understand it, at 5:30; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I will withhold the remainder of my time. How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. I will withhold. I say that I expect that Senator INHOFE will be here. I would ask my colleague from North Carolina, are you here to speak on this bill?

Mrs. DOLE. No, I am not.

Mr. CRAIG. I will speak in morning business.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent if we can please go into morning business to accommodate my colleagues. But I would say, Senator INHOFE may well have a statement. I ask unanimous consent that my two colleagues have 5 minutes each to speak and then the remainder of the time be reserved for Senator INHOFE, minus my 7 minutes, then go to a vote at 5:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of a former Member of the Senate who delivered his first speech in this Chamber exactly 39 years ago. It was April 14, 1969, when that Senator stood, not far from here, to address his Senate colleagues for the first time.

The Senator used his speech to call attention to a group of Americans who were very close to his heart and who, up until that time, had been largely ignored. It was a group of Americans he had joined on April 14, 1945, when, as a soldier in the famed 10th Mountain Division, he was severely wounded as he led his troops into battle in the hills of Italy.

As a result of his wounds, the soldier would spend 39 months in various hospitals, and doctors would operate on him eight times. Eventually, the soldier would be left without the use of his right arm.

So it was that Bob Dole rose on April 14, 1969, not just to speak as a Senator, he also spoke as one of the millions upon millions of Americans who happened to have a disability.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the speech delivered by Senator Bob Dole on April 14, 1969, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Congressional Record, Apr. 14, 1969]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 91ST  
CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION  
HANDICAPPED AMERICANS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, my remarks today concern an exceptional group which I joined on another April 14, twenty-four years ago, during World War II.

It is a minority group whose existence affects every person in our society and the very fiber of our Nation.

It is a group which no one joins by personal choice—a group whose requirements for membership are not based on age, sex, wealth, education, skin color, religious beliefs, political party, power, or prestige.

As a minority, it has always known exclusion—maybe not exclusion from the front of the bus, but perhaps from even climbing aboard it; maybe not exclusion from pursuing advanced education, but perhaps from experiencing any formal education; maybe not exclusion from day-to-day life itself, but perhaps from an adequate opportunity to develop and contribute to his or her fullest capacity.

It is a minority, yet a group to which at least one out of every five Americans belongs.

Mr. President, I speak today about 42 million citizens of our Nation who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped.

WHO ARE THE HANDICAPPED?

Who are the handicapped?

They are persons—men, women, and children—who cannot achieve full physical, mental, and social potential because of disability.

Although some live in institutions, many more live in the community. Some are so severely disabled as to be home-bound, or even bed-bound. Still others are able to take part in community activities when they have access and facilities.

They include amputees, paraplegics, polio victims. Causes of disability include arthritis, cardio-vascular diseases, multiple sclerosis, and muscular dystrophy.

While you may have good vision and hearing, many persons live each day with limited eyesight or hearing, or with none at all.

While you may enjoy full muscle strength and coordination in your legs, there are those who must rely on braces or crutches, or perhaps a walker or wheelchair.

While you perform daily millions of tasks with your hands and arms, there are many who live with limited or total disability in theirs.

And in contrast to most people, thousands of adults and children suffer mental or emotional disorders which hinder their abilities to learn and apply what is learned and to cope adequately with their families, jobs, and communities.

Then there are those who are afflicted with combination or multiple handicaps.

NOT JUST THE HANDICAP

For our nation's 42 million handicapped persons and their families, yesterday, today, and tomorrow are not filled with "everyday" kinds of problems which can be solved or soothed by "everyday" kinds of answers. Their daily challenge is: accepting and working with a disability so that the handicapped person can become as active and useful, as independent, secure, and dignified as his ability will allow.

Too many handicapped persons lead lives of loneliness and despair; too many feel and too many are out off from our work-oriented society; too many cannot fill empty hours in a satisfying, constructive manner. The leisure most of us crave can and has become a curse to many of our Nation's handicapped.

Often when a handicapped person is able to work full or part time, there are few jobs or inadequate training programs in his locale. Although progress is being made, many employers are hesitant to hire a handicapped person, ignoring statistics that show he is often a better and more dependable worker.



The result is that abilities of a person are overlooked because of disabilities which may bear little or no true relation to the job at hand. The result to the taxpayer may be to support one more person at a cost of as much as \$3,500 per person a year. To the handicapped person himself, it means more dependency.

#### STATISTICS

Consider these statistics: Only one-third of America's blind and less than half of the paraplegics of working age are employed, while only a handful of about 200,000 persons with cerebral palsy who are of working age are employed.

Beyond this, far too many handicapped persons and their families bear serious economic problems—despite token Government pensions and income tax deductions for a few, and other financial aids. I recall a portion of a letter received recently from the mother of a cerebral palsy child in a Midwestern urban area:

There are the never-ending surgeries, braces, orthopedic shoes, wheelchairs, walkers, standing tables, bath tables and so on . . . we parents follow up on every hopeful lead in clinics and with specialists; we go up and down paths blindly and always expensively . . . I have talked with four major insurance companies who do not insure or infrequently insure CP children . . . although our daughter is included in her father's group hospitalization plan, many families are not as fortunate. These are just a few of the problems, compounded by the fact we must try to adequately meet the needs of our other "normal" children. In many cases, some kind of financial assistance would enable us and others like us to provide for our children in our homes, avoiding overcrowding of already overcrowded facilities and further adding to the taxpayer's burden costs for complete care.

There are other problems—availability and access of health care personnel and facilities at the time and place the individual with handicaps needs them. In my own largely rural State of Kansas, many handicapped persons travel 300 miles or more to receive the basic health services they require.

Education presents difficulties for many parents of handicapped children. Although a child may be educable, there may be few, if any, opportunities in the community for him to receive an education. Private tutoring, if available, is often too expensive. Sadly, to date, the Council for Exceptional Children estimates less than one-third of the Nation's children requiring special education are receiving it.

In rehabilitation, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare said recently 25 percent of America's disabled have not received rehabilitation services and do not know where to seek such help. They estimate that at least 5 million disabled persons may be eligible for assistance.

Other problems the handicapped person faces each day include availability and access of recreation and transportation facilities, architectural barriers in residences and other buildings, and many, many more.

#### STILL A PROMISING OUTLOOK

We in America are still far from the halfway point of assuring that every handicapped person can become as active and useful as his capacities will allow. The outlook for the handicapped person in 1969, however, is not altogether bleak. Unparalleled achievements in medicine, science, education, technology as well as in public attitudes have cemented a framework in which the handicapped person today has more opportunities available to him than ever before. Consider first what government is doing.

#### THE GOVERNMENT STORY

The story of what the Federal Government, hand in hand with State governments, is doing to help meet the needs of the handicapped is not one that draws the biggest and boldest headlines. Broadly, the story is a "good" one, consisting of achievements in financial assistance, rehabilitation, research, education, and training of the handicapped—a massive effort to help many disabled Americans live as normal, as full and rich lives as possible.

It is, in part, the story of a man who, at age 21, became a paraplegic after sustaining injuries to his spinal cord and head in an accident while on the job.

In 1968, he joined over 2,300,000 other disabled men and women who have been restored to more productive, useful lives since the State-Federal vocational rehabilitation program began 48 years ago.

In 1964, the young man—a high school dropout with a wife and child—was referred to his State's division of vocational rehabilitation where a thorough program of total rehabilitation began. In addition, he was enrolled in a training school and was graduated as a fully licensed insurance agent.

Today—4 years later—he has his own successful insurance business. He and his wife have built a new home and adopted a baby.

It is a measure of America's concern for its handicapped citizens that even 50 years ago, this story could not have been told.

It takes place now because the Congress and the Federal Government initiated and guided a vital, vigorous program of vocational rehabilitation.

Mr. President, vocational rehabilitation is one of many ways the Federal Government works to aid the handicapped. But none of the Federal programs necessarily reaches or helps every handicapped person.

Nevertheless, the role of the Government has been basically successful in terms of numbers assisted, basic research performed, and the movement of increasingly large numbers of persons into more productive, satisfying channels. It demonstrates what Congress and Federal and State governments are doing to help America's handicapped better participate and achieve.

Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, at the close of my remarks, a brief summary of Federal programs for the handicapped.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

#### THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it is in the American tradition and spirit that parallel to Government effort there has developed the vital and growing effort for the handicapped by individuals, business and industry, churches and private, voluntary organizations. It is a herculean task to properly assess the many, far-reaching effects of the private sector—in health care, education, employment; in research, rehabilitation, by fundraising drives and through professional organizations and groups for the handicapped themselves. But it is here in the private sector—with its emphasis on the creativity, concern, and energies of our people—that America has become the envy of the world. Our private economy and the resources of our people have combined to improve the quality of life in America in ways and for persons the Government could not begin to match or reach.

For the handicapped, their achievements have been no less. I shall not today, detail or single out the achievements of the voluntary groups and private enterprise involved in aiding the handicapped. But let the record show that without the sincerity, scope, and

success of their efforts—in public information, employment and training, in upgrading health care and education personnel and facilities, in fundraising and in supporting research to conquer or at least minimize the effects of handicapping conditions—the prospects for the handicapped individuals would not be as hopeful as they are today.

#### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Mr. President, as new public and private programs are developed, as old ones are strengthened and some, perhaps eliminated, as we in Congress allocate comparatively limited funds to help the handicapped, the responsibilities and opportunities loom large before us.

We must insure our efforts and money are not misplaced or misdirected—that they do not just promise, but really do the job.

Are we all doing our best to see that all the knowledge, information, money, and other help is consolidated and available to the handicapped person in the form he can use and at the time and place he most needs it?

Is there sufficient coordination and planning between and among the private groups and the Government agencies to avoid multiplicity and duplication so that we best serve America's handicapped?

Are we sometimes engaged in a numbers race—attending to cases that respond more quickly in order to show results to donors, members, and taxpayers, thus sacrificing some attention which should be focused on the really tough problems?

Many handicapped persons of our Nation are no longer helpless or hopeless because of private and public efforts which have helped them to better help and be themselves.

But the fact remains that some of our Nation's handicapped and their families are attacking the very programs and projects created to help them.

Some are disillusioned and disaffected by the programs.

Too often, the information, the services, the human help and encouragement are not reaching the person for whom they were intended and at the time and place he needs them.

Some sincerely believe there may be better ways we can demonstrate our concern and thereby better achieve for the person with handicaps the independence, security, and dignity to which he is entitled.

I am reminded of a statement given recently by the 1968 president of the National Rehabilitation Association:

It is the person, not the program that is of overwhelming importance. It is not the disability that claims our attention, it is the person with handicaps. It is not the maintenance of prestige of a particular profession that matters. It is the contribution of the profession to solving the complex problems of the individual who has handicaps.

When more of this emphasis on the individual better influences the agencies and professions dealing with the handicapped, I believe we can begin to open new, more meaningful vistas for more persons with handicaps.

We have been involved in efforts which have been creditable to date. Of this, there is no doubt.

But are we doing our best?

A highly respected official of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare summed up the problem this way:

I do not feel we are spending our dollars—public or voluntary—as effectively as we could. We need to take a whole new look at what is going on, where the service is given. We need to try to design new methods and clearer purposes for our efforts. We need to relate our efforts more closely to the needs

of a community, to the needs of its individuals. And we need to try to measure, as concretely and specifically as possible what is actually achieved by our expenditures.

Our handicapped citizens are one of our Nation's greatest unmet responsibilities and untapped resources. We must do better.

#### PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE

With this in mind, I suggest the creation of a Presidential task force or commission to review what the public and private sectors are doing and to recommend how we can do better.

Composed of representatives of the public and private sectors, this task force or commission could provide an overview of how to provide the handicapped more help and hope.

Such a task force or commission could provide valuable assistance to Congress and the administration as we develop programs and allocate comparatively limited funds for the handicapped.

It could also help private organizations and voluntary groups conduct their efforts more efficiently and effectively.

The goal of a task force or commission, to achieve maximum independence, security, and dignity for the individual with handicaps, should encompass the total needs of the handicapped, not just employment or education or any other \* \* \*

Rather the task force or commission should concern itself with the whole broad spectrum of needs and services, because as I have pointed out the problems of the handicapped do not begin and end with the handicap itself.

Although there are hundreds of areas a task force or commission could review, I am hopeful, if created, it would include the following subjects:

First. Expansion of employment, transportation, and recreation opportunities for the handicapped.

Second. A directory or central clearinghouse to help inform the handicapped person and his family of available public and private assistance.

There are many helpful handbooks and information sources available. But most are not comprehensive and are more accessible to professionals in the field than to the handicapped who really need the guidance and information.

Third. Removal of architectural barriers.

Many persons cannot secure employment or fill their leisure hours because their disabilities bar use of the facilities. It is just as easy to build and equip buildings so that the handicapped and unhandicapped can use them. The Federal Government is doing this now for federally financed structures.

Fourth. More development of health care on a regional or community basis.

This is a tough, but priority matter and one which cannot be accomplished quickly or inexpensively. But we must begin to move toward more adequate health care facilities and personnel which serve each person at the time and place he needs them.

Fifth. Better serving the special educational needs of the handicapped.

Both the person and the Nation suffer when any educatable child—handicapped or unhandicapped—does not receive an education.

Sixth. Income tax deductions and/or other financial assistance to extend relief to more handicapped persons and their families.

Seventh. More attention on the family of the handicapped person.

These are the people who often need a degree of encouragement, counseling, and "rehabilitation" themselves. Are there services we should provide to family members whose own lives and resources are deeply affected by the presence of a handicapped person?

Eighth. Increased dialog and coordination between private and voluntary groups and Government agencies to avoid multiplicity and duplication.

What is at stake is not the agency, group, or program. What is at stake is the future of the handicapped person with his own abilities and potentialities.

#### CONCLUSION

This, then, Mr. President, is the sum and substance of my first speech in the Senate.

I know of no more important subject matter, not solely because of my personal interest, but because in our great country some 42 million Americans suffer from a physical, mental, or emotional handicap. Progress has been and will continue to be made by Federal and State governments, by private agencies, and individual Americans; but nonetheless there is still much to be done, if the handicapped American: young, old, black, white, rich, or poor is to share in the joys experienced by others. The task ahead is monumental, but I am confident that there are forces in America ready and willing to meet the challenge—including, of course, many of my distinguished colleagues who by their acts and deeds have demonstrated their great interest.

#### EXHIBIT 1

##### FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED DISABLED VETERANS

The program of services for disabled veterans as we know it today began with enactment of the Soldier Rehabilitation Act, which was passed unanimously by Congress June 27, 1918 (P.L. 178, 65th Congress). Under the law, the Federal Board for Vocational Education, created by legislation the year before, was authorized to organize and offer vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled veterans.

The program was finally closed out July 2, 1928. In the program's 10-year existence, about 675,000 veterans applied for training. About 330,000 completed their courses satisfactorily and were considered rehabilitated, and about 98 percent of them were employed at the time their training was completed or terminated.

Soon after the U.S. entered World War II, planning began for vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled servicemen returning from that war.

On March 13, 1943, after much discussion over whether the veterans program should be allied with the civilian vocational rehabilitation program, the House passed a bill authorizing a separate veterans' program. It was signed into law 11 days later as P.L. 16, 78th Congress, and covered veterans who served in the armed services between Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, and the declared end of the war. This legislation set into motion an effort which, before termination, benefitted several hundred thousand disabled veterans.

When the U.S. entered the Korean conflict, the Congress enacted legislation to insure that the men who fought there could receive the same services as World War II veterans. By 1955, about 36,000 Korean veterans had received vocational rehabilitation training for service-connected disabilities.

Later legislation made it possible for veterans disabled after the conclusion of the Korean conflict to receive rehabilitation and other services of the Veterans' Administration. This includes peace-time veterans and the veterans of the Vietnam war. In 1968 alone, 5,192 veterans participated in vocational rehabilitation training, bringing the total number since the program began to 721,000.

Disabled veterans who need prosthetic and sensory aids can obtain them from the Vet-

erans Administration. In 1968 prosthetic appliances and services were furnished to about 465,000 disabled veterans, including 5,400 Vietnam veterans. Approximately \$10.2 million was spent in 1968 for the procurement and repair of prosthetic and other related appliances.

Last year, too, requests for grants were approved to help pay for special automobiles for 2,850 veterans because of loss of hands or feet or severe eye impairment. Expenditures for this benefit in 1968 totalled almost \$3.5 million, bringing the total cost to \$83.6 million since this program was enacted in 1946.

Another special benefit for disabled veterans is the grant program for acquiring specially-adapted housing for those who need braces, crutches, canes, or wheelchairs. Grants totaling \$4.4 million were made to 460 veterans in 1968. Since the program began in 1948, 9,705 grants at a cost of \$92.7 million have been awarded.

With the creation of a new Department of Medicine and Surgery December 31, 1945, the Veterans Administration set in motion a new pattern of care and rehabilitation service for sick, injured and disabled veterans entering VA hospitals. A special rehabilitation service was developed; selected hospitals were specially staffed and equipped for certain disabilities such as spinal cord injury, blindness, epilepsy, amputation and other conditions.

##### PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED CIVILIANS

A rehabilitation program for disabled civilians was not enacted simultaneously with the veterans' program because of opposition that it was not practicable and also not the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Two years later—June 2, 1920—President Wilson signed into law the Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 236, 66th Congress). The bill, known as the Smith-Fess Act, is one of the oldest grant-in-aid programs for providing services for individuals. At that time, services under the act were confined to counseling, job training, artificial limbs and other prosthetic appliances, and job placement. It provided for an appropriation of \$750,000 for fiscal year 1921 and \$1 million for fiscal years 1922 to 1924 and for payments to States cooperating in vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry. Federal funds were to be matched by the States and were not to be used for institutions for handicapped persons except when individuals entitled to benefits of the act, required special training.

In its first year, the vocational rehabilitation program helped rehabilitate 523 disabled persons. Authorization for the program was renewed by Congress several times until 1935, when the Social Security Act included permanent authorization. This action demonstrated the consensus of congressional thought that vocational rehabilitation should be a permanent program in the United States. Continuing to grow, the program rehabilitated 11,890 persons in 1940.

The entry of the United States into World War II caused a manpower shortage which gave disabled persons who had been rehabilitated an opportunity to show the nation that the disabled could be productive, capable workers. Many employers began calling for more rehabilitated workers than the vocational rehabilitation program, despite its success, was prepared to provide. For more than 20 years since its enactment, the program had been limited in scope and uncertainly financed. Some States had excellent programs, but many did not. Development on a national scale had been uneven.

Legislation in 1943 helped solve some of these problems, and other legislation in later years helped to shape it into the more meaningful and effective program it is today.

In 1943 after an attempt to combine the Veterans' and civilian vocational programs was defeated, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943 (P.L. 113, 78th Congress) were signed into law. The 1943 law superseded the 1920 legislation and broadened the vocational rehabilitation program—more liberal financing, increased State services, and broadened the concept of rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation services were extended to the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. Separate State agencies for the blind were incorporated into the Federal-State rehabilitation program. In addition, the now 50 States, and Puerto Rico were all placed on the same footing with respect to Federal grants. An improved provision of the 1943 law was coverage for specified corrective surgery or therapeutic treatment necessary to reduce or eliminate a disability. Administration of the program was transferred from the Commissioner of Education to the Federal Security Agency. In 1950, 59,597 persons were rehabilitated.

There were problems, however. Partly because the financial system was becoming inadequate and because there was no provision for research, professional training, and other features, essential progress was not being made.

Legislation in 1954, supported by President Eisenhower, was an effort to remedy these problems. While retaining the basic pattern of services, the 1954 amendments (P.L. 565, 83rd Congress) made sweeping improvements. They included provisions for research, demonstration, and training activities. The Federal share was increased on a formula basis, to give greater support to States with relatively large populations and relatively small per capita income. It initiated a new system of project grants for improvement and extension of services. For the first time, the use of Federal grants to expand, modernize and equip rehabilitation facilities and workshops was also authorized.

In 1954, Congress also amended the Hill-Burton hospital survey and construction act to provide Federal grants to help construct rehabilitation facilities.

While in 1960, 88,275 persons were rehabilitated under the vocational rehabilitation program, by 1965 it had mushroomed to over 135,000 persons.

The 1965 amendments to the vocational rehabilitation act (P.L. 89-333) were designed to bring the public and voluntary agencies into a closer working alliance. It expanded and enlarged the program by broadening its legal and financial base. Services to the severely disabled, the mentally retarded, the deaf, and other handicapped individuals were increased. A national commission on architectural barriers to rehabilitation of the handicapped was established. Federal financial support was extended to local areas for funding more vocational rehabilitation programs. In a drive to build more rehabilitation facilities and workshops, funds were authorized for a comprehensive program to improve the workshops and to construct more vocationally-oriented rehabilitation facilities. Grants to States to conduct comprehensive State-wide planning by agencies designated by the Governors were also provided.

In 1967 Congress took further steps to improve rehabilitation programs for the Nation's disabled. The 1967 amendments (P.L. 90-99) extended and expanded grant authorizations to States for rehabilitation services. Provisions were made to establish a national center for deaf-blind youth and adults and to extend services to disabled migrants, and their families. In addition, the 1967 amendments required State agencies to provide services to the handicapped without regard to their residence locations.

Finally, just this past year, Congress passed another bill amending the vocational

rehabilitation program. The bill increased the Federal share for basic support of State programs from 75 to 80 percent, beginning in fiscal 1970, and established a minimum allotment of \$1 million for each State to increase efficiency, expand services, and reach more clients. The 1968 amendments (P.L. 90-391) also extended programs of grants for innovation, for special projects and for rehabilitation facilities construction and staffing.

The bill established a new vocational evaluation and work adjustment program to serve those who are disadvantaged by such reasons as physical or mental disability, youth, advanced age, low educational attainment, ethnic or cultural factors, or prison or delinquency records, especially in association with poverty.

Evaluation may include preliminary diagnostic studies to determine whether the individual is disadvantaged, has or will have an employment handicap, and needs rehabilitation services. Work adjustment services include appraisal of the individual's pattern of work behavior and development of work habits, work tolerance, and social and behavior patterns suitable for successful job performance.

Establishment of the social and rehabilitation service in 1967 also brought about an expansion of the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, and its transfer to the Division of Mental Retardation, under the newly-named Rehabilitation Services Administration. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed the President's Panel on Mental Retardation and gave them a mandate to recommend a national plan to combat mental retardation.

The Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendments of 1963 (P.L. 88-156) carried out several recommendations of the panel. This act provided funds to assist the States in planning comprehensive State and community programs for the mentally retarded. The Social Security Amendments of 1965 (P.L. 89-97) extended comprehensive planning grants to the States, enabling implementation of their comprehensive plans to combat mental retardation.

The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 (P.L. 88-164) authorized grants to States to construct facilities to serve the mentally retarded. It also provided grants to assist in construction of university-affiliated facilities to provide an interdisciplinary approach for clinical training of specialized personnel and for demonstration of new service techniques.

The Mental Retardation Amendment of 1967 (P.L. 90-170) extended these two programs and established a new grant program to pay part of the compensation of professional and technical personnel in community facilities for the retarded, for initial operation of new facilities, or of new services in a facility. Projects have been approved for construction of 242 community facilities to serve over 63,000 retardates.

In 1963, Congress authorized the hospital improvement program to support projects to improve services in State mental retardation institutions. This program is assisting about 100 of the 169 existing facilities.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1968 (P.L. 90-391) authorized projects for rehabilitation of mentally retarded persons not eligible for vocational rehabilitation due to age, severity of handicap, or other reasons. The first appropriation for this program is being requested for 1970.

Today, there are 90 rehabilitation agencies with 800 offices operating nationwide and in four territories. They serve nearly 700,000 handicapped persons each year at a State-Federal cost of over a half-billion dollars.

#### PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND

One of the first pieces of legislation providing Federal aid for handicapped persons was approved March 3, 1879, under the title "An Act To Promote the Education of the Blind." This law set up a perpetual trust fund of United States Bonds, the income from which, in the amount of \$10,000 a year, would go to the American Printing House For the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky, so that books and other materials could be distributed among the schools for the blind throughout the country. Subsequent amendments gradually increased the authorization for this program. In 1956, it was \$410,000 a year. Then in 1961, Congress removed the ceiling from the annual appropriation and made it an amount to be determined by Congress. In fiscal year 1968, the printing house served some 19,000 blind children with books and other teaching materials at a cost of \$1.5 million.

The printing house was originally designed to serve blind children. In 1931, Congress enacted the so-called Pratt-Smoot Act (P.L. 787, 71st Congress) to "Provide Books for the Use of the Adult Blind Residents of the United States." This legislation formed the basis for the Federally-supported library service to the blind vested in the division for the blind and physically handicapped in the Library of Congress.

In 1933, an amendment to the act made available for distribution talking books, or phonograph records, in addition to the Braille books already used.

As commercial firms became interested in producing talking book records, a 1939 amendment gave preference to "nonprofit-making institutions or agencies whose activities are primarily concerned with the blind." A 1942 amendment provided maintenance and replacement of talking book machines as well as the talking books.

Then in 1952 Congress enacted an amendment removing the word "adult" from the act, clearing the way for blind children to also benefit from the program. In 1966, another amendment extended the program to include other physically handicapped persons. In 1968, 140,000 handicapped readers received catalogs from which to select reading matter and circulation of the containers, and reels, and volumes, was over 5,265,000. The expenditure for the program in 1968 was \$5.6 million.

One aspect of the vocational rehabilitation program is the emphasis given to adjustment, training, and placement of blind persons in competitive employment. Attention was first focused on this severely disabled group as a result of the passage of P.L. 113 in 1943.

The amendments to the vocational rehabilitation act in 1954 made a limited amount of training and research money available, so employment opportunities for blind workers have been greatly expanded. In 1968, 6,800 blind and 12,000 visually-limited persons were placed in a variety of occupations. In addition, special workshops for the blind now employ approximately 5,000.

Another phase of employment for the blind was made available through the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (P.L. 732) in 1936 which gave preference for operation of snack bars, vending stands, and other facilities of Federal properties to qualified blind persons. Installation of facilities, training, and supervision of blind operators are responsibilities of the State licensing agencies. In 1968, 3,259 blind persons earned \$16.6 million, an average of \$5,580 per operator.

#### EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED

In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a bill establishing a national college for the deaf later to be known as Gallaudet

College, and in 1879, Congress enacted legislation giving federal financial aid to the American Printing House for the Blind. Unfortunately, these two programs were the extent of Federal aid for education of handicapped children for the next three quarters of a Century.

In 1954 Congress enacted the cooperative Research Act (P.L. 83-531) for research grants in education. In 1957, \$675,000 of the \$1 million appropriated under the Act was earmarked to be spent on research on education of the mentally retarded.

In 1958 Congress passed the captioned films for the Deaf Program (P.L. 85-905). Originally aimed at cultural enrichment and recreation, amendments in 1962 and 1965 broadened the program into a flexible, comprehensive instructional program for the deaf, including teacher training. 1967 legislation extended the program to include all handicapped children requiring special education.

Legislation in 1958 (P.L. 85-926) authorized grants to educational institutions to help train professional personnel to train teachers of mentally retarded children. In 1961, Congress enacted legislation authorizing support for training classroom teachers of the deaf (P.L. 87-276).

In 1963, these programs for training personnel to work with handicapped children were expanded to include teachers of children who are "hard of hearing, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, crippled, or other health impaired," as well as mentally retarded and deaf. The same legislation (P.L. 88-164) authorized grants for research and demonstration projects in education of handicapped children. A 1965 amendment to this program authorized construction, equipping, and operation of facilities for research and related purposes.

The year 1965 saw enactment of a great body of legislation to aid in the education of handicapped youngsters. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (P.L. 89-10) provided programs through local education agencies to reach handicapped children in low income areas. It also provided support for supplemental services including special instruction for the handicapped and for innovative programs. A 1965 amendment to this act (P.L. 89-313) provided grants to State agencies directly responsible for educating handicapped children. This brought assistance to State-operated or State-supported schools for the deaf, retarded, etc., not eligible under the original act.

Also in 1965 Congress enacted the National Technical Institute for the Deaf Act (P.L. 89-36) authorizing establishment and operation of a postsecondary technical training facility for young adults who are deaf. This institute, which is being established at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, complements Gallaudet College, which provides a liberal arts program.

1966 saw more legislation for education of the handicapped. There was the Model Secondary School for the Deaf Act (P.L. 89-694) which created a model high school as part of Gallaudet College to serve deaf children of the Washington, D.C. area. Planned to offer a full curriculum and the normal extracurricular activities of high schools, this model high school for deaf children may lead to formation of other similar schools throughout the country.

Also in 1966, Congress passed further amendments (P.L. 89-750) to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which authorized funds to assist the States in improvement of programs and projects for the education of handicapped children at preschool, elementary, and secondary levels. The 1966 amendment also required establishment of a

National Advisory Committee on Handicapped Children to make recommendations concerning programs carried on for handicapped children by the Office of Education.

In addition, the Congress undertook a bold precedent, establishing the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped to administer all Office of Education programs for the handicapped. The Bureau of Education for the Handicapped has made major strides in stimulating a local, State and Federal partnership for improvement of education for handicapped children.

The 1967 amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act further broadened and extended the program of services to the handicapped. Regional resource centers were authorized to determine special education needs of handicapped children referred to them, develop educational programs to meet these needs, and assist schools in providing such programs. The 1967 legislation also authorized establishment and operation of centers for deaf-blind children, programs designed to improve recruiting of educational personnel and to improve dissemination of information on educational opportunities for the handicapped.

The 1967 Mental Retardation amendments (P.L. 90-170) provided support for training professional personnel and for research and demonstration activities in physical education and recreation for mentally retarded and other handicapped children.

The most recent piece of legislation for education of handicapped children was enacted in the Handicapped Children's Early Education Assistance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-538). It authorizes grants to public and private agencies and organizations for establishment of experimental preschool and early education programs which show promise of developing comprehensive and innovative approaches for meeting special problems of handicapped children. This legislation recognizes that the most rapid learning period comes in the years before school traditionally begins. The programs engendered by this legislation should do much to identify handicapped children early and to help give them a better start toward full, productive lives.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED

Once a handicapped person is rehabilitated and able to support himself, he often encounters tremendous difficulties in securing meaningful employment. A case is not considered closed, in the vocational rehabilitation program, until the disabled person is on the job, and has satisfactorily adjusted in the eyes of both the disabled person and his employer.

For many reasons, employers are reluctant to hire the handicapped. The Federal Government is trying to change this attitude among employers and the public and has met with some success.

In addition to the placement program of the vocational rehabilitation program, the Bureau of Employment security, through state and local employment services, provides direct employment counseling and assistance to physically and mentally handicapped persons seeking work. Public information and educational activities directed toward employers and labor organizations are part of the effort made under these programs. Selective placement techniques are also used to help match the physical demands of a job to the physical capacities of a worker.

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, a voluntary group of about 600 men and women, has made great accomplishments in the past 20 years to promote greater employment opportunity for qualified handicapped men and women. Operating within the Department of Labor and

within a budget that until last year had a ceiling of only a half million dollars, the Committee maintains working relationships with the 53 cooperating governor's committees, and with the various Federal Departments, Agencies, and Commissions. The Committee works to help assure that the handicapped are considered for their abilities, and to help facilitate development of maximum employment opportunities for them. The peak of its activity, although it goes full steam throughout each year, is in the first full week of October, National Employment of the Physically Handicapped Week.

The Department of Labor is also involved in training the handicapped. Enactment of the Manpower Development and Training Act in 1962 widened the opportunity for the Department to develop meaningful training programs for handicapped workers. It was estimated that by the summer of 1966, well over 25,000 handicapped persons had received training under MDTA and over 20,000 of those had already obtained jobs.

#### HOUSING FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Federal Government is involved in several programs concerned with housing for the handicapped or disabled. The Housing Assistance Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides loans and contributions to local housing authorities which, in turn, provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low-income families at rent they can afford. Handicapped persons of limited income are among those eligible for benefits under this program, established by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (P.L. 75-412).

The Housing Assistance Administration also provides low-interest, long-term loans to private nonprofit corporations, consumer cooperatives, and public agencies for new and renovated rental housing, dining facilities, community rooms, and workshops for the elderly and the handicapped whose incomes are above the levels set for admission to public housing projects, but below that needed to pay rents for available private housing. This program was enacted by the Housing Act of 1959 (P.L. 86-372).

The Housing Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-70) established a grant program for public and private groups to develop new or improved means of providing housing for low-income persons, the physically handicapped, and families. Demonstration of means to provide housing is specifically authorized by this legislation.

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-117) authorized rent supplement payments to help assure privately-owned housing is available to low-income individuals or families of low income. The handicapped are among those eligible for this program if their income does not exceed the maximum amount established in the area for occupancy of federally-aided, low-rent public housing.

#### ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

Related to housing, Congress in 1968, passed legislation to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are designed and constructed to be accessible to the physically handicapped (P.L. 90-480). This legislation applies to any public buildings constructed in whole or part with Federal funds. The only exceptions are privately-owned residences and buildings or facilities on military installations intended primarily for use by able-bodied military personnel.

This legislation was passed after recommendations were made by the National Commission of Architectural Barriers to Rehabilitation of the Handicapped, authorized by the Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1965 and appointed by the President in 1966.

The legislation should spur States and local governments to enact legislation and regulations so that all public buildings, not only those built with Federal funds, will be so constructed that the disabled will be able to fully utilize them. Some 45 States have laws or resolutions already, but many of them are not strong enough to have much effect. Only a few municipalities thus far have taken similar action.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR THE NEEDY BLIND AND TOTALLY DISABLED

The Federal Government is involved in programs of support for needy blind persons and for permanently and totally disabled persons through social security legislation enacted in 1935 and 1950. Under these public assistance programs, the Government provides grants to States and the States, in turn, provide three forms of assistance: cash payments for food, clothing, shelter, and other basic needs; medical or remedial care recognized under State law, through payments directly to hospitals, physicians, dentists, and other providers of care; and social services, such as counseling on personal problems, help in finding better housing, referral to community resources, and home-maker services.

These programs are available to needy blind persons so that they may attain or retain their self-support or self-care capability and to people over age 18 who cannot support themselves because they have a permanent and total physical or mental impairment.

In 1967 the number of persons receiving aid to the blind in the States and territories with programs in operation totaled over 82,000. Combined, total expenditure of local, State, and Federal funds for this purpose was over \$86.9 million, and the average payment for all individuals participating nationwide was \$90.45 per month. Under the program for the permanently and totally disabled, there were 646,000 recipients receiving a total of \$573.5 million, averaging \$80.60 per monthly payment.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE

The basic social security program which provides benefits to the worker when he retires also provides cash benefits to covered disabled workers under age 65 and to their dependents for as long as the worker is unable to engage in "substantial gainful activity." In 1967, over two million disabled workers and dependents received social security cash benefits totalling over \$147.8 million. Under the 1965 social security amendments, use of trust funds was authorized to pay the cost of rehabilitation services provided by the State vocational rehabilitation agencies to certain disability insurance beneficiaries.

The "Medicare" Act passed in 1965 included a little-publicized but valuable new arrangement for restoring more disabled people: It authorized the Social Security Administration to transfer from trust funds for retirement and disability benefits certain amounts for vocational rehabilitation services to disabled workers receiving social security benefits. A limit of one percent of the total benefits being received placed a control on how many funds could be transferred each year. These funds are used by the Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation Program to pay for services to disabled beneficiaries, most of whom can be restored to activity and work, thereby resuming their payments into the trust funds. For this year, \$18,077,000 was transferred for this work.

#### SUMMARY

The above Federal programs have been described briefly and quite possibly some programs may have been unintentionally overlooked in our research.

At any rate, the summary may be of assistance to those interested in the problems and

programs concerning handicapped Americans.

Mr. PEARSON. Mr. President, I should like to express great pride in, and ask to be associated with this most excellent statement just made by my distinguished colleague. He speaks of a problem which, in his own words, affects every person in our society and every fiber of our Nation.

Here is, then, a definition coupled with a solution and, treated with sympathy and yet with reason, an approach, I am sure, that will yield to progress.

I think that one point he so clearly set forth is the challenge. That is when he asked all of us:

Are we doing our best to see that all the knowledge, the information, and money, and other help is consolidated and available to the handicapped person in the form he can best use and in the time and place he needs it most?

I think he answered that question by saying a little later on that we must do better. He makes a proposal which is specific in its recommendations, and is an enormous contribution, I think, to a very great problem.

I look forward to the other proposal that he shall be making in the days ahead in regard to what is, really, one of the great problems facing this country in the last third of the 20th century.

I congratulate my distinguished colleague. I am very much pleased to be here today when he makes his first speech in the Senate.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, will the Senator from Kansas yield?

Mr. DOLE. I yield.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I should like to join my friend, the other distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. PEARSON), in commending the distinguished Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION THIS AFTERNOON.

I have served in this body many years. I do not know that I have ever heard a new Senator make a greater contribution in what he characterizes as his first speech in this body.

He talked on a subject which is close to the hearts of all Americans. This country has grown so fast, with over 200 million people in it, with a huge Government requiring complicated machinery, that it is a supertask for us to try to see that some of the less fortunate people in this country are not ground under the wheels of the massive instrument that we have played our part in creating.

I predict for the junior Senator from Kansas a long and distinguished career. I venture to say that although his contributions, I am sure, will be great, he can always remember with pride the fact that his first contribution was on a subject which is so important to all Americans.

As a Member of the Senate, I join in congratulating the distinguished Senator from Kansas on the masterly speech he has just delivered.

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Kansas yield?

Mr. DOLE. I yield.

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, I should like to join the senior Senator from Kansas (Mr. PEARSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. COTTON) in commenting on the speech which the junior Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE) has just completed—a speech which addresses itself to a problem which is becoming increasingly felt as one of the serious problems in America today. The subject has a humanitarian impact because it deals with the problems of the individual, but it also has a social and economic impact because it affects the way in which we, as a nation, deal with problems that touch the lives of so many of our citizens.

The Senator has treated the subject in great depth, with thoroughness, and with understanding. I can only say that this is typical of him. He and I entered the other body on the same day. We came to the Senate on the same day. I have known him very well in the intervening years.

The remarks of the junior Senator from Kansas today are evidence of the promise of the enormously valuable service which he will render in this body as the years pass by.

I wish to express my appreciation to him for his valuable contribution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleagues for their patience and their kind remarks.

Mr. HRUSKA. Mr. President, the junior Senator from Kansas is to be commended for his statement today on problems faced by the handicapped. This statement, in many ways, typifies the man who made it. It is well prepared, thoughtful, and above all, it is a warm and human examination of the problem.

The Senator from Kansas, during his four terms in the House of Representatives, established himself as a man who truly cares about people and does his best to aid them. His emphasis is not on statistics, but on the people involved. This is as it must be. The dollars spent, the programs generated, mean nothing unless they benefit those in need.

The problem of aiding the physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped is not one to be solved by government alone. In the end it is people who must help. People will provide jobs, training, and dignity. A partnership of government, local and national, and the private sector of our economy is the wise way of approaching the question of assistance to the handicapped. It is the way highlighted by the able Senator from Kansas.

There is one final point I wish to make, Mr. President. In mentioning specific causes of disability, there is one the Senator from Kansas left out—service to our Nation. A great number of our citizens have made the sacrifice of health and well-being for the cause of peace. The distinguished Senator knows well the problems of which he speaks today. He knows the vitality that remains in the human soul despite injury to the body. He has demonstrated how well a man can serve his country despite a handicap.

Mr. President, I congratulate the junior Senator from Kansas on his fine remarks to the Senate.

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to read the speech because it is as compelling and timely today as it was 39 years ago. It offers a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing those with disabilities and the steps that need to be taken to fulfill their dreams of full participation in our society. Thanks to the leadership and perseverance of Bob Dole and the work of other Senators such as Senator DOMENICI, Senator HARKIN, and Senator KENNEDY, those dreams became a reality with the passage in 1990 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Bob has described July 26, 1990, the day President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the ADA into law, as one of the most rewarding days of his life. He once said:

I suppose there were some that day who saw only a White House lawn covered with wheelchairs and guide dogs. But that just goes to show who in our society is truly limited.

My own perspective was very different. As I looked around, I saw Americans with amazing gifts; Americans who could finally contribute to a Nation much in need of their skills and insights.

Bob Dole not only devoted much of his public life to serve as an advocate for Americans with disabilities, he devoted much of his private life as well. He began the Dole Foundation and worked to raise millions, which were used to fund job training and placement programs for disabled workers. Bob also established a scholarship fund for law students with disabilities at the Washburn University School of Law. The funds provide assistance to students with disabilities for tuition, books, and other special needs.

Throughout his career, Bob Dole has never wavered in his special commitment to the veterans who were disabled in service to our country. As my colleagues know, last year President Bush appointed Bob and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to serve as cochair of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returned Wounded Warriors.

The Commission was asked to provide a comprehensive review of the care provided to service men and women wounded in the global war on terrorism and to recommend needed improvements to that care. In the course of their work, the Commission visited DOD facilities, VA hospitals, and other care sites across the country. They met with injured servicemembers, their families, professionals who provide medical and rehabilitative services, program administrators, and many others.

Last July, the Commission issued a final report with important recommendations that would serve and support our veterans while simplifying an overly complex system. As Senators ROBERTS and BROWNBACK know, the State motto of Kansas is: "To the stars through difficulties."

Quite simply, I can think of no American who has done more in his life and career to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to fly as high and soar as far as their skills and talent can take them than Bob Dole.

In doing so, he has earned more than the pride and admiration of a loving wife. He has earned the respect of a grateful nation and the enduring thanks of millions of individuals he has never met but whose lives are immeasurably better and richer and more productive because of him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. I have been listening to Senator DOLE speak of her husband, a great American. I would like to tell the Senator that as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, we are now examining the Dole-Shalala proposal that the Senator referenced, which is a quantum leap in good advice and sound understanding of the needs of Amer-

ica's veterans. We thank you. More importantly, we thank Senator DOLE for that great effort.

#### TAX CODE REFORM

Mr. CRAIG. I rise today, on the eve of Tax Day, 2008, to discuss the State of our Nation's Tax Code. Only a few weeks ago, we debated the fiscal year 2009 budget resolution and some recurring themes very quickly emerged.

Over and over again, both sides of the aisle were speaking of the problems they heard about, the death tax and problems with the alternative minimum tax and the unfair tax advantage of the wealthy and the burden on the middle class and other problems that are systemic within America's Tax Code.

You know what we did about these problems? We only offered temporary solutions like we have offered for the last decade. Here is what is wrong with that type of thinking: There are not temporary problems that can be fixed with temporary solutions, they are fundamental problems that require fundamental changes in America's Tax Code.

Our current Tax Code is broken, and you saw Democrats and Republicans alike opining on the floor of the Senate during the debate over the budget resolution about taxes. We tried to fix it with a temporary measure, but we have served only to make things worse. There is exactly what we have done over the last good number of years.

Today's Tax Code is over 67,000 pages long, and it is growing. According to IRS estimates, taxpayers spend 6 billion hours annually trying to fit themselves into the Tax Code and over \$265 billion in related compliance costs.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans, it is only going to get worse. Since the last major overhaul of the Tax Code in 1986, we have made 15,000 changes. That is right, since 1986, we have made 15,000 changes. That equates to a couple of changes to our Tax Code every day.

This nonstop tinkering has created a tax system that is overly complex, incredibly inefficient, and extremely unfair. We cannot continue down this unsustainable path of temporary fixes. We need to do fundamental reform to our Tax Code. We need a system that is simple and transparent and fair. We need to wipe the slate clean and start all over.

I am amazed we have not done the very fundamental aspects of what we need to do to fix the Tax Code. Our broken code does more than cost us money in compliance costs and a waste of time, it hurts us both socially and economically. Socially our Tax Code tells us when is the best time to marry, how many children we ought to have, how much to save, how much to invest, where to live, and even, to a degree, what time we should die in our lives that is the most economically advantaged to our estate.

That is what our Tax Code does. Economically, we waste billions of dollars

that could have been reinvested in the economy. Instead, we employ some of America's brightest minds on innovation, while we waste them on innovative ways to navigate through this phenomenally complex 67,000-page code. Moreover, our complex Tax Code and high corporate tax rate are putting Americans out of business as we compete in a world around us, not just here in America but all over the world. Companies today are locating where they have a greater tax advantage.

I spent several years examining several different tax systems, and after examining the facts, I believe the best alternative to a broken Tax Code has been the very tax idea I introduced some years ago. That was a flat tax—no games, no gimmicks, a straightforward approach.

Our Tax Code is the workhorse pulling our economy, as I stated earlier, pulling us in the wrong direction. This horse that pulls our economy, the American Tax Code, has grown very lame. I grew up farming and ranching. Let me tell you, when the horse got lame, you took it out of the harness and put it in the barn. Sometimes, if it could not get well, you would simply have to dispose of it. How tragic that was.

But today's tragedy is the lame horse that is still in the harness, attempting to pull the Tax Code and the American people and the economy in the right direction when it is headed in the wrong direction.

So now as Americans file their taxes responsibly and dutifully, after they have navigated their way through a maze, and they have taken them to their accountant, and their accountant puts his or her final seal on it, and they send it in, if they were to ask an IRS agent: Did I do it right, there is no IRS agent today, no matter how schooled and how learned and how long-serving in the IRS, who can say: Yes, you have done it right. And that is not appropriate. The best they can tell you is that they think, in fact they guess, that you did it right.

That ought to be an embarrassment to our country, and more importantly it ought to be an embarrassment to America's policymakers. That is us, those who write the Tax Code of our country that drives our economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Let me use some of the time for the issue at hand. First of all, I wish to talk about the technical corrections bill that is going to be voted on in about 15 minutes—not the bill but the motion to proceed to the bill.

The Transportation bill that we are involved in, that Senator BOXER and I were involved in back in 2005, that we passed August 10 of 2005, authorized \$286 billion in transportation and infrastructure spending for fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

Now, let me say that as a conservative standing here, that is a huge



number. I think that may have been the largest nondefense spending bill at the time up to that time. But it is interesting that if we spend all of that, it is not going to even maintain what we have today.

That is why we put into the bill a committee to look into new ways of funding infrastructure, new ways of funding transportation. We have been doing it the same way since President Eisenhower, and it is time we tried something different.

I think there is a resistance to continuing to increase taxes as the only way of funding our infrastructure. Included in the bill are recommended technical changes from the Department of Transportation that address functional problems in implementing the bill, technical changes to safety products which will continue to be delayed from breaking ground due to simple drafting errors and descriptions.

Furthermore, universities and other transportation research entities will not receive their fully intended funding, and the States will be unable to use millions of dollars in transportation funds that were authorized 3 years ago.

Something that is interesting, the bill does not increase the overall size of SAFETEA. I have heard a lot of people say: Well, this is a big spending bill. First of all, it is not a spending bill, it is an authorizing bill. But the technical corrections are also an authorization.

Now, it is my understanding, and I believe it is true, that the total amount of authorization that was in the bill itself is not changed by the technical corrections bill.

A lot of people are implying it is. I do not believe it is. We have had staff and ourselves looking at it. It may change some of the priorities in the authorization, but the overall figure, the top line, is going to be the same.

Several of my colleagues have approached me recently with additional project fixes. In some cases, I have had to say no to their requests because they either submitted them too late to be considered in our negotiations with the House—the request went beyond the scope of a technical fix—or because the proposed fix was to a House project which the House objected to. Let's keep in mind, we have two Houses working on this. We have the Senate and the House of Representatives. This is a difficult type of legislation to get passed. But one thing you can't do is start making changes and anticipate that the House is going to go along with those changes, because I can tell my colleagues, they will not do it. Our House colleagues have passed this bill several times, but each time it comes over to the Senate it has been held up.

The bill before us, along with the manager's substitute amendment, is the commutation of negotiations between the House and the Senate. Any changes to the bill at this point will require the concurrence of the House or

the bill will not proceed. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to understand that if they are planning on filing an amendment before the chairman and I can agree to it, we need to determine if our counterparts in the House would find it to be agreeable. I suggest they probably will not.

I heard about an hour ago, when I arrived in Washington, that it might be that the administration could have some objections. I am having a hard time understanding how that could be. First, they supported the bill. They signed the bill when it first passed in August of 2005. Technical corrections is a common thing. It does not have a net increase in authorizations. I can't see why it would be. I understand there would be one provision having to do with rapid transit that would not be in our committee. It was not in the committee chaired by Senator BOXER and formerly chaired by me. It is in the Banking Committee. So we want to look at that. If that is the objection, I certainly believe we can talk to the administration and keep them from opposing it.

We have some amendments that have been discussed. I have not been here long enough to find out this week if people are going to come forward with their amendments. My junior Senator, Mr. COBURN, makes a very good point on a project down in Florida called Coconut Road, that there have been some problems. Apparently, all those have been corrected. The only thing I wish to talk to my junior Senator about is if he wants to examine this, investigate this, that is a good idea. It is already being done. However, we have enough committees and commissions around this place, thousands of them. I am not sure we need another one. That is something we might want to debate. I know Senator BOND has an amendment that he has discussed. I look forward to visiting with him. Any of these amendments, yes, we want to talk about them. But keep in mind, we do have this commitment that we have a technical corrections bill that has to pass or we cannot implement those provisions that otherwise are going to allow us to correct some of the problems we have.

Again, here I am, a conservative, saying this is not adequate, what we have done today. We have another one that should be coming up next year. Hopefully, it will. Sometimes it doesn't happen like it should. But in the meantime, I want that committee that is supposed to be examining the way we have historically funded roads and highways and infrastructure to come up with some ideas. There are experiments in different States right now. But we will have to recognize the fact that this country has got to have infrastructure for it to survive.

In conclusion, I assure my colleagues that I appreciate their responsiveness to our numerous requests to advise the committee of their requests, thereby assisting us to help them. If we were

unable to satisfactorily address their concerns in this bill, there will be additional opportunities do so when we reauthorize SAFETEA, and that reauthorization should be under way next year.

With that, I hope those who object to this will at least let us proceed to this bill. Then we can look at it and see if there are any of the amendments that we feel would not violate the agreement between the Senate and House and would have the effect of killing the whole bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank my ranking member. He and I, when we are on the same page, have had very good results. I think our colleagues trust that when we can come together on something, it has gone through all the hoops and all the "I's" have been dotted and the "T's" have been crossed. I want to assure colleagues that on this particular piece of legislation, we have worked closely together, as have Senators DODD and SHELBY over at Banking, as have Senators INOUE and STEVENS. This is one of those moments which doesn't come that often around here—not often enough for me—where we do have a lot of us working together across party lines, across committee jurisdictions.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Mr. INHOFE. I neglected to mention that when we went through this long and arduous legislation initially, there are probably not two Members of the Senate who are more opposed to each other philosophically than the two of us, Senator BOXER and myself. But we recognize that the process we used is one that is fair. We developed criteria. There are projects in here that met the criteria. Some of them I would oppose personally, but nonetheless, you have to come up with a bill if you are going to have roads to travel and infrastructure to serve this great Nation.

I compliment Senator BOXER in working with me on some of the problems I had initially with this bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased we can work so well together. I want to thank our staffs also. We have developed very trusting relationships with our senior staff, and it reflects the relationship we have developed to be able, even if we disagree, to be completely honest with each other. This is helpful for the Senate as a whole.

I wanted to share with the Senate this amazing group who came together to support us in our efforts on this technical corrections bill which will unleash some funding that is rather stuck right now, at a time when we could use some construction activity. I think it is important to see. We have the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials—those are Departments of Transportation from all 50 States—American Highway Users

Alliance, millions of highway users throughout the country; American Public Transit Association, transit systems from across the country; American Road and Transportation Builders Associations, more than 5,000 members of the transportation construction industry—these people have all written to us and have said: Get this bill going—Associated General Contractors, more than 32,000 contractors, service providers and suppliers; the Council of University Transportation Centers, more than 30 university transportation centers from across the country; National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, companies in America that produce more than 92 percent of crushed stone and 75 percent of sand and gravel used in the United States annually; and the National Asphalt and Pavement Association, more than 1,100 companies that produce and pave with asphalt. These are the folks who are saying to all of us: Please bring this bill to the floor, please work together.

I personally have a very good feeling about this bill. Senator DEMINT, who sometimes has trouble with these bills, was complimentary to both of us and the work we have done. He has a couple of amendments, maybe only one amendment. He said he did not intend to hold up our bill. So I think we are moving in a good direction. But I want to reiterate what Senator INHOFE said: Please, if you do have an amendment, talk to us, because we are not going to have this bill go through unless the House signs off. So we would hope we could keep this bill pretty clean. We hope we can work out our differences with a couple of Senators who have some problems. If we can't work it out, we will have to see what the body wants to do. This is sort of a very mini stimulus package, frankly, and one that doesn't mean one dollar of new spending that hasn't already been authorized. It is a good moment for the Senate.

I thank Senator REID, working with Senator MCCONNELL, for getting this bill before us. A lot of our communities will be very happy when they see that projects that were stalled, because there were some technical problems, can now go forward.

Some of our colleagues who said: Look, leg one of this project can go forward but not leg two. Can you change the wording?

We are allowing colleagues this kind of latitude. Of course, we put a freeze on all of that because we had to cut off at some point. I think this bill is a good bill. It is a technical corrections bill. It is not breaking any new ground. We look forward to an "aye" vote from as many of our colleagues whom we can convince this is a good idea. I understand we are about to go into the vote. I look forward to a solid vote. Then Senator INHOFE and I will be in the well, and we will talk to all our colleagues who may want to talk about their amendments.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 608, H.R. 1195, an act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Richard Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jon Tester, Mark L. Pryor, Bernard Sanders, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jack Reed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) would vote "yea."

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

#### YEAS—93

Akaka	Brown	Coburn
Alexander	Brownback	Cochran
Allard	Bunning	Coleman
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Baucus	Byrd	Conrad
Bayh	Cantwell	Corker
Bennett	Cardin	Cornyn
Biden	Carper	Craig
Bingaman	Casey	Crapo
Boxer	Chambliss	DeMint

Dodd	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Dole	Kohl	Salazar
Domenici	Kyl	Sanders
Dorgan	Landrieu	Schumer
Durbin	Leahy	Sessions
Ensign	Levin	Shelby
Enzi	Lieberman	Smith
Feingold	Lincoln	Snowe
Feinstein	Lugar	Specter
Graham	Martinez	Stabenow
Grassley	McCaskill	Stevens
Gregg	McConnell	Sununu
Hagel	Mikulski	Tester
Harkin	Murkowski	Thune
Hatch	Murray	Vitter
Hutchison	Nelson (FL)	Voinovich
Inhofe	Nelson (NE)	Warner
Inouye	Pryor	Webb
Isakson	Reed	Whitehouse
Johnson	Reid	Wicker
Kerry	Roberts	Wyden

#### NAYS—1

Bond

#### NOT VOTING—6

Clinton	Lautenberg	Menendez
Kennedy	McCain	Obama

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 93, the nays are 1. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I just need 30 seconds. On behalf of my ranking member, JIM INHOFE, and myself, I thank colleagues for giving us this go-ahead to go to the technical corrections bill. It is not the most exciting of bills, but it will be a bit of an economic stimulus to our Nation. It doesn't add a dollar of new spending; it just makes corrections to a bill that is a very popular bill—SAFETEA-LU—and it will allow a lot of highway construction and transit projects to proceed. We are very pleased with this vote.

Before giving up the floor so Senator INHOFE can say a couple of words, if my colleagues have any amendments—we know that amendments do threaten this bill—we will be delighted to speak with our colleagues about them and try to figure out a way to either work them out so that the House agrees and we agree we can move forward or figure out a way to get an early vote so we can get on with consideration and then on to something else.

At this point, I yield the floor and again say thank you very much to our colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me say I do agree with what Senator BOXER says, although it is a little bit

more than that. Not only does it not spend more, it doesn't authorize more. I think that is very important for people to understand. There is some confusion from some things I have read in different publications that make it appear that we have increased the authorization. Some things have been moved around, but the bottom line is it has remained unchanged.

The other thing that is important to repeat is that as big as this bill was, the 2005 bill we are scheduled to get into again next year, in 2009, it still doesn't take care of the problem. We have a problem in this country with the \$286 billion figure; it doesn't even maintain what we have today. That is critical. I am hoping the committee that was established for the purpose of exploring new ways of funding transportation will come up with something a little more creative than they have so far because we are not going to be able to do it just by redoing and expanding what Eisenhower started many years ago. So we need to have this bill in order to go ahead and finish the projects that we have authorized and that are paid for at this time, and we won't do it unless we can pass this bill.

So I hope anyone—I would agree with Senator BOXER—anyone with amendments, let's bring them down and talk about them, and I am available to talk, and I am doing that as we speak. I have spoken with a couple of Members who have talked about an amendment. So if you have any amendments, bring them down so Senator BOXER and I can visit with you about the amendments.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AARP

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to call the attention of the Senate to the 50th Anniversary of a remarkable organization that boasts 35 million members, for whom it provides services ranging from discounted prescription drugs, to travel services, to financial services. Most of us on Capitol Hill are far more familiar with this organization as the tireless advocate for the interests of Americans over the age of 50. The organization, of course, is AARP.

In its half-century of service, the organization that we know today as AARP has been transformed from its modest beginnings in 1958 when Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired high school principal, transformed the National Retired Teachers' Organization into the American Association for Retired Persons. The organization was

known under this name until 1999 when it became just AARP to reflect the fact that many of its members are still active in the labor force.

Characteristic of the work of AARP over the past 50 years has been its efforts to influence national policy on behalf of the well being of Americans over the age of 50 and to defend the programs that protect them, especially Social Security and Medicare. More recently, AARP has spearheaded the effort to get bipartisan action in Congress to provide all Americans with health care and long-term financial security with its Divided We Fail campaign. I commend AARP for its outstanding leadership on these issues, which are so critical to millions of Americans.

When President Bush in 2005, fresh from his election victory, made the privatization of Social Security his top domestic priority, he met his match in AARP, which mobilized its members to oppose this very risky plan. Congressional Democrats worked very closely with AARP in that effort, and in the end we were successful, at least temporarily. Unfortunately, given the continuing support for privatization among many in Washington, that battle will have to continue in the years ahead, and I look forward to working closely with AARP to continue to make the case against privatization, and to make sure that America keeps its promise to our seniors.

So I offer a cordial birthday greeting to an organization that is 50 years old and stronger than ever. AARP has kept pace with the needs of mature Americans and, more importantly, it has kept faith with them. In the process, it has made this country a better place for all Americans.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge the passage of S. 793, the reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, Program. Both the Senate and House of Representatives have passed this bill and it will now be sent to the President's desk to be signed into law.

I thank my colleague and coauthor of the Senate bill, Senator KENNEDY, and his staff for their hard work over the past few years. I also extend my gratitude to Senator ENZI and his staff for their diligent efforts in helping to reauthorize this important program.

I also must thank the leaders of this effort in the House, Representatives BILL PASCRELL, Jr., FRANK PALLONE, Jr., and their staffs who have been so dedicated to helping individuals with TBI.

Also, this bill would not have been possible without the cooperation and input from involved organizations, such as the Brain Injury Association of America, BIAA; the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators, NASHIA; the National Brain In-

jury Research, Treatment and Training Foundation, NBIRTT; and the National Disability Rights Network, NDRN; and I thank them all for their contributions.

It means a lot to the 5.3 million Americans living with TBI, and their families, to reauthorize the only Federal program that helps them. The Federal TBI Program comprises prevention and surveillance activities at the Center for Disease Control, CDC, research at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and grants to States from the Health Resources and Services Administrations, HRSA. This reauthorization bill expands and improves those activities, and includes provisions to look at the reintegration of war vets returning to their communities.

Each year, 1.4 million people sustain a TBI and face long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result. Direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost productivity of TBI totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the United States in 2000. We can help truncate those costs and ensure that people are connected to the services they need by continuing this important program.

It has been a labor of love to draft and enact legislation to reauthorize this important program. On behalf of individuals living with TBI, and their families, I thank my colleagues in Congress for passing this legislation and reaffirming our commitment to helping those with who suffer from traumatic brain injuries.

#### NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, yesterday marked the official beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Since 1981, communities in Vermont and across the Nation have observed this week with candlelight vigils and public rallies to renew our commitment to crime victims and their families. It is vitally important that we recognize the needs of crime victims and their family members, and work together to promote victims' rights and services.

We have been able to make some progress during the past 27 years to provide victims with greater rights and assistance. In particular, I was honored to support the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, VOCA, Public Law 98-473, which established the Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund allows the Federal Government to provide grants to State crime victim compensation programs, direct victim assistance services, and services to victims of Federal crimes. Nearly 90 percent of the Crime Victims Fund is used to award victim assistance formula grants and provide State crime victim compensation. These VOCA-funded victim assistance programs serve nearly 4 million crime victims each year, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse,

and drunk driving, as well as survivors of homicide victims. Our VOCA-funded compensation programs have helped hundreds of thousands of victims of violent crime.

The Crime Victims Fund is the Nation's premier vehicle for supporting victims' services. It is important to understand that the Crime Victims Fund does not receive a dime from tax revenue or appropriated funding. Instead, it is made up of criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments.

In 1995, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I proposed and Congress passed the Victims of Terrorism Act of 1995. Among other important matters, this legislation authorized the Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice to set aside an emergency reserve as part of the Crime Victims Fund to serve as a "rainy day" resource to supplement compensation and assistance grants to States to provide emergency relief in the wake of an act of terrorism or mass violence that might otherwise overwhelm the resources of a State's crime victims compensation program and crime victims assistance services.

Over the last several years we have made sure that the Crime Victims Fund would remain dedicated to crime victims. We made sure that it would serve as a "rainy day" fund and reserve to help meet crime victims' needs. The "rainy day" fund has been used to make up the difference between annual deposits and distributions three times during the past 7 years. It provides security and continuity to crime victims programs and to our State partners.

Since fiscal year 2000, Congress has set a cap on annual obligations from the Crime Victims Fund. I have worked to ensure that the cap has never resulted in resources being lost to the Crime Victims Fund. I believe we need to increase the cap. With the failure of the Bush administration crime prevention policies, crime began to rise under Attorney General Gonzales. Crime victims, the States and service providers need more assistance.

Instead of taking that salutary action, the Bush administration is proposing to raid the Crime Victims Fund and zero it out. The future of the Crime Victims Fund is in danger because the Bush administration has proposed rescinding all amounts remaining in the Crime Victims Fund at the end of fiscal year 2009—just cleaning it out and leaving the cupboard bare. That would leave the Crime Victims Fund with a zero balance going into fiscal year 2010 and create a disastrous situation for providers of victims' services. That is wrong.

Over the last few years, we have successfully blocked the Bush administration's past attempts to raid the Crime Victims Fund. This is not a cache of money from which this administration should try to reduce the budget deficits it has created. It has turned a \$5 trillion budget surplus into a \$9.4 trillion

debt. Its annual deficits run into the hundreds of millions. It is wrong to try to pay for its failed fiscal policies by emptying out the Crime Victims Fund. These resources are set aside to assist victims of crime.

In order to preserve the Crime Victims Fund once again, Senator CRAPO and I, as well as 25 other Senators, sent a letter on April 4, 2008, to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking that the committee to oppose the administration's proposal to empty the Crime Victims Fund. We asked the Committee, instead, to permit unobligated funds to remain in the Crime Victims Fund, in accordance with current law, to be used for needed programs and services that are so important to victims of crime in the years ahead.

We need to renew our national commitment to crime victims. The Senate can help by recognizing the importance of the Crime Victims' Fund and supporting its essential role in helping crime victims and their families meet critical expenses, recover from the horrific crimes they endured, and move forward with their lives. I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to honor our longstanding commitment to crime victims by working together to recognize and support victims of crime, and to preserve the Crime Victims Fund.

#### THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I wish today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Early in the morning of September 9, 2007, police in Antioch, CA, responded to a call regarding a fight that had broken out at a party. According to witnesses, Phillip Hale, 18, and a 17-year-old accomplice were mocking and attempting to provoke a group of deaf partygoers by mimicking their hand movements. The two teens were asked to leave, but came back sometime later with a stick, a hoe, and a brick. Witnesses say a fight ensued upon their return. When police arrived on the scene, they found a substantial amount of blood. One deaf victim suffered a minor head injury, and Hale suffered a head injury as well, for which he was treated at John Muir Medical Center. According to jail records, Hale was booked at Contra County jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy, and committing a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and vio-

lent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN EDMUND LITTLE

• Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, it is with great pleasure that today I honor the life of LTC John Edmund Little, a veteran of World War II and a Pearl Harbor survivor. He passed away October 18, 2007, at the age of 92 after serving his country in the U.S. Navy from 1933 to 1937 and in the U.S. Air Force for 19 years from 1940 to 1959.

In 1937, Lieutenant Colonel Little was serving in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Colorado*, which was the first ship to search for Amelia Earhart around Howland Island in the South Pacific.

As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he was serving in Hawaii at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the island was attacked. Lieutenant Colonel Little went on to become a distinguished fighter pilot in the Southwest Pacific, Solomon Islands from 1942 to 1943. In 1943, he became squadron commander of the 44th Fighter Squadron which became the No. 1 squadron in the South Pacific, and was involved in the fatal strike against Admiral Yamamoto. Nine of the original pilots in his squadron were aces.

During his military career, Lieutenant Colonel Little received numerous awards for his hard work and dedication to the United States. These awards include four Air Medals, American Campaigns Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal. My home State of Arkansas is fortunate to have men and women such as Lieutenant Colonel Little who devote their lives to protecting the citizens of this great Nation.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating LTC John Edmund Little on his service to the United States of America. •

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the Calendar:

H.R. 3352. An act to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Assistant Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 14, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 38

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program for the provision of readjustment and mental health services to veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 399, a bill to

amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to enhance the overseas stabilization and reconstruction capabilities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to prevent abuse of Government credit cards.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 1052

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1052, a bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1117, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the limitation on the foreign earned income exclusion, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1430

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1572

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1843

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1843, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid

pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2035, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 2056

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2056, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore financial stability to Medicare anesthesiology teaching programs for resident physicians.

S. 2059

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, *supra*.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2099, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare competitive bidding project for clinical laboratory services.

S. 2109

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto

Mountains National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a prospective payment system instead of the reasonable cost-based reimbursement method for Medicare-covered services provided by Federally qualified health centers and to expand the scope of such covered services to account for expansions in the scope of services provided by Federally qualified health centers since the inclusion of such services for coverage under the Medicare Program.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to States for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit and the residential energy efficient property credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2376

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2376, a bill to establish a demonstration project to provide for patient-centered medical homes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in providing medical assistance under the Medicaid program and child health assistance under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2460, a bill to

extend by one year the moratorium on implementation of a rule relating to the Federal-State financial partnership under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program and on finalization of a rule regarding graduate medical education under Medicaid and to include a moratorium on the finalization of the outpatient Medicaid rule making similar changes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for cooperative governing of individual health insurance coverage offered in interstate commerce.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2533

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2533, a bill to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act.

S. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today.

S. 2672

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2672, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

S. 2684

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2684, a bill to reform the housing choice voucher program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.



S. 2689

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend section 411h of title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for family members of members of the uniformed services with serious inpatient psychiatric conditions.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery honoring blind members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and other Americans.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2702, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and increase utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B Program.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to provide for enhanced health insurance marketplace pooling and relating market rating.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to preserve access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program during an economic downturn, and for other purposes.

S. 2822

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2822, a bill to amend the En-

ergy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas.

S. RES. 500

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, a resolution honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child".

At the request of Mr. BROWN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, supra.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5773. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cultivated Wild Rice Crop Insurance Provisions" (RIN0563-AC00) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5774. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5775. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12647) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5776. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12640) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5777. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (73 FR 12644) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5778. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Office of Hearings and Appeals; Conforming Changes to Reflect Organization Regulations" (RIN2501-AD35) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5779. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component of the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG00) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5780. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG24) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5781. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elephant Trunk Scallop Access Area Closure for General Category Scallop Vessels" (RIN0648-XG29) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5782. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Reduction of Winter I Commercial Possession Limit" (RIN0648-XG20) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5783. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Management Measures for the 2008 Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A" (RIN0648-AW26) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5784. A communication from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methodology to be Employed in Determining the Railroad Industry's Cost of Capital Board Decision" (RIN2140-AA84) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5785. A communication from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases Board Decision" (RIN2140-AA88) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5786. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the protection of market sensitive data; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5787. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of

FERC Form No. 423" (RIN1902-AD47) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5788. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5789. A communication from the Program Manager, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit" (RIN0938-AO74) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5790. A communication from the Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to oversight of the Global Fund to fight AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5791. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Immigrants and Non-immigrants—Visa Classification Symbols" (22 CFR Parts 41 and 42) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5792. A communication from the Deputy Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5793. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities carried out by the Family Court during 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5794. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5795. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure and Consistency of Cost Accounting Practices—Foreign Concerns" (RIN3110-01) received on April 9, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5796. A communication from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5797. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Recommendations"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5798. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Highlights"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2850. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to promote the direct deposit of Social Security benefits until adequate safeguards are established to prevent the attachment and garnishment of such benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2853. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the cap on disproportionate share adjustment percentages for certain rural hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. PRYOR)):

S. 2854. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to clarify the effective date of active duty members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces receiving an alert order anticipating a call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation for purposes of entitlement to medical and dental care as members of the Armed Forces on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 513. A resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 76. A concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858; considered and agreed to.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2852. A bill to provide increased accessibility to information on Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, throughout my career, I have been working on the front lines of the battle for greater transparency and openness in our Government because I fundamentally believe the more the American people and my constituents in Texas understand about the Government and how it operates, the better accountability can take place, and people will once again feel they are in charge, which is absolutely the case. Knowledge is power, and transparency permits the accountability necessary for our system to work.

Just a few months ago, Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I were successful in getting a bill signed which modernized and greatly improved our Freedom of Information laws for the first time in many years. Now it is my intent to try to accomplish that same thing with the Federal spending, and that is why today I am introducing the Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008.

The first thing this bill would do would be to create an online earmark tracking system that taxpayers can use free of charge to search for specific earmarks by recipient, by appropriations bill, by State, and by Member, and to do so in a real-time frame of reference during the appropriations process.

Of course, earmarks are especially designated appropriations for particular projects in particular locations. There is a lot of controversy about earmarks, but I think greater transparency would limit the number of earmarks introduced because were they to be completely transparent, it would discourage the use of earmarks and make certain only meritorious ones are accepted by the Congress as part of the appropriations process.

Secondly, my legislation would direct the Internal Revenue Service to provide each taxpayer with a concise, easy-to-read personal record of the amount of taxes they have already paid and an estimate of the amount of taxes they will pay in the timeframe before they retire.

As you know, the Social Security Administration currently already mails out a similar statement, called a Social Security account statement, which gives taxpayers a record of the earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes and a summary of their estimated future benefits. So this taxpayer account statement would be sort of the mirror image of the Social Security statement, and it would let people know how much taxes they have paid and what their tax obligation would likely be into the future.

I think this tax statement could play an important role when taxpayers are planning their future finances and provide them with a better idea of how much in taxes they will pay in the future.

It will also have the added benefit of making them much more aware of what Washington is doing when it comes to their hard-earned money and the money they send to Washington to pay the bills.

Finally, this legislation builds upon the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 that created a one-stop, searchable Web site for all Federal contracts and grants. My legislation would expand on this Web site by including all expenditures of all Federal agencies, such as salaries, rent, supplies, and transportation.

As this chart shows, taxpayers will have to work 74 days during the year just to pay their Federal taxes without getting one red cent for themselves. Additionally, local taxes and State taxes account for an additional 39 days of work, and that is before they begin to work to pay their own bills, their other bills. For housing, it is roughly 60 days out of the year; health insurance, 50 days out of the year; food, 35; and transportation, 29 days out of the year. So these living essentials are being squeezed by the Federal tax burden, and I think it is important for people to understand that. Frankly, once they do, I think their voices are then much more likely to be heard when loose talk in Washington occurs about raising taxes.

I was interested to hear our colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, talk about the alternative minimum tax. That is a perfect case study of why, when people talk about taxing the rich, really what they are talking about is taxing people who earn a living. That was a classic case where the alternative minimum tax was passed to target 155 taxpayers who did not otherwise pay Federal income tax because of their deductions, due to State and local taxes. Well, no surprise those 155 targeted taxpayers grew last year to 6 million taxpayers, and this year it would have grown to 23 million middle-class taxpayers because it had not been indexed. Once again, taxing the rich turns into taxing the middle class.

Well, I think greater transparency in the process would allow the middle class to tell Washington: Wait a minute, you need to cut out some of the waste and inefficiency of Government before you come back to me and ask me for more of what I earn, which I need to spend on housing, health insurance, food, transportation, or whatever else I see fit.

I think it is about time for taxpayers to see where their money is going, and it is in this spirit I am introducing this Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008. I think it answers the fundamental question: Should the people who foot the bill for the Federal Government know what it is they are getting?

Never would you ask a person to make an investment without giving them the ability to monitor that investment. But when it comes to taxes, that is precisely what we are asking. It is time for us to open up the process of Federal spending to the public and let the American people see where their money is going. That way they can hold their elected officials accountable and play a closer role in the determination of where we spend their hard-earned money.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2852

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Spending and Taxpayer Accessibility Act of 2008".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Taxpayers deserve to know how their tax money is spent by the Federal Government.

(2) The Office of Management and Budget has developed a single, searchable Internet website of Government grants and contracts, accessible free of charge by the public.

(3) The Office of Management and Budget, through its Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) system, identified that almost 25 percent of Federal programs it reviewed either were ineffective or their effectiveness could not be determined.

(4) Billions of dollars are lost each year through fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement among the hundreds of programs in the Federal Government.

(5) Taxpayers work on average more than 2 months of every year to pay for the operations of the Federal Government.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to bring more transparency to the spending habits of the Federal Government;

(2) to help taxpayers understand how the Federal Government spends the money they send to Washington, D.C.;

(3) to provide for better accountability in the Federal budget and appropriations process;

(4) to give taxpayers an easy and accessible way to see how their money is being spent; and

(5) to increase the participation of citizens in their Government.

#### SEC. 3. EARMARK TRACKING WEBSITE.

(a) INTERNET WEBSITE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2009, the Congressional Research Service shall create a single operational searchable Internet website, accessible free of charge by the public, that allows the user to search information on each Federal earmark, including—

(A) the name and location of the intended recipient of the earmark,

(B) the total dollar amount of the earmark,

(C) the Member of Congress who sponsored or requested the earmark, and

(D) the status of the bill to which the earmark is attached.

(2) SCOPE OF DATA.—The Internet website established under this subsection shall in-

clude data for fiscal years after fiscal year 2007.

(3) TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION.—The Congressional Research Service shall update the Internet website established under this subsection as soon as any bill or report containing an earmark has been passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) EARMARK.—For purposes of this section, the term "earmark" means a congressionally directed spending item, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit.

(A) CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEM.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member of Congress providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.

(B) LIMITED TAX BENEFIT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "limited tax benefit" means any revenue provision that—

(i) provides a Federal tax deduction, credit, exclusion, or preference to a particular beneficiary or limited group of beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) contains eligibility criteria that are not uniform in application with respect to potential beneficiaries of such provision.

(C) LIMITED TARIFF BENEFIT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "limited tariff benefit" means a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits 10 or fewer entities.

(2) RECIPIENT.—For purposes of this section, the term "recipient" means the entity designated to receive the earmark.

(3) SEARCHABLE INTERNET WEBSITE.—For purposes of this section, the term "searchable Internet website" means an Internet website that allows members of the public—

(A) to search and aggregate Federal funding for any earmark passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof, as well as an overall total by any method required by subsection (a)(1);

(B) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks provided to a single recipient;

(C) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks sponsored or requested by each United States Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, including Delegates and Resident Commissioners, and the President of the United States; and

(D) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks and earmark recipients located in each State and territory of the United States.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall, upon making a determination that the Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) will not be operational by January 1, 2009, immediately notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives of such determination and shall provide the reason for the delay.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date on which the

Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) becomes operational, the Director of the Congressional Research Service shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of such website, including data regarding the usage of and public feedback on the utility of the website and any recommendations for improving the presentation of the data.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Congressional Research Service shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the Internet website established under subsection (a).

(e) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of classified information.

(f) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with the requirements of this section.

#### SEC. 4. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO TAXPAYERS.

(a) PROVISION OF STATEMENT UPON REQUEST.—Beginning not later than October 1, 2009, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide upon the request of an eligible individual a taxpayer account statement for such individual.

(b) TAXPAYER ACCOUNT STATEMENT.—The taxpayer account statement required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the aggregate amount of individual Federal income tax paid by the eligible individual under chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in all previous taxable years, and

(2) an estimate of the aggregate amount of such income tax that such individual will have paid as of the projected date of the normal retirement of such individual.

(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible individual” means an individual who—

(1) has a valid social security number issued by the Social Security Administration.

(2) is age 25 or over,

(3) has filed a return of tax in any previous taxable year, and

(4) has had net income tax liability which is greater than zero in any previous taxable year.

(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, to the maximum extent practicable, take such steps as are necessary to assure that eligible individuals are informed of the availability of the statement required under subsection (a).

(e) MANDATORY PROVISION OF INITIAL STATEMENTS.—By not later than September 30, 2014, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide a taxpayer account statement to each eligible individual for whom a current mailing address can be determined. The Secretary shall provide with each such statement notice that an updated version of such statement is available annually upon request.

#### SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

(a) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2010, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include the financial outlays of all Federal agencies on the Internet website established by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

(2) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The information added to the Internet website under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) allow the user at least 2 different methods of searching and aggregating the finan-

cial outlays of all Federal agencies, including—

(i) searching by agency obligation and object class; and

(ii) searching by budget function and sub-function; and

(B) allow the user to download any data received as the product of a search.

(b) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—All Federal agencies shall comply with instructions and guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and shall provide appropriate assistance to the Director upon request in the addition to the Internet website of the information required under subsection (a).

(c) SCOPE OF DATA.—The information added to the Internet website under subsection (a) shall include data for fiscal years after fiscal year 2008.

(d) FINANCIAL OUTLAY.—For purposes of this section, the term “financial outlay” means any payment to liquidate an obligation (other than the repayment of debt principal) that is greater than \$25,000.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, upon making a determination that the information required to be added to the Internet website under subsection (a) will not be complete by January 1, 2010, immediately notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives of such determination and shall provide the reason for the delay.

(f) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 6 months after the date on which the information required under subsection (a) has been added to the Internet website described in such subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the addition of the information added under subsection (a), including data regarding the usage of and public feedback on the utility of the Internet website and any recommendations for improving data quality and collection.

(2) PUBLICATION.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the Internet website established by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

(g) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of classified information.

(h) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2011, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with the requirements of this section.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 513—CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL, WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY CELEBRATED ON APRIL 23, 2008, AND COMMEMORATING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS VETERANS AND CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS SOLDIERS TO THE VITAL NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND HOMELAND DEFENSE MISSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 513

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a “special message” to the Senate and the House of Representatives that “earnestly recommended passage” of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring “our Army ... to the highest point of efficiency”;

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, “strongly commending ... proposed legislation” to “increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army” by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled “An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army”, ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents

Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deploying or providing mobilized soldiers and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled

and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas more than one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions have consistently been marked by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76—TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1858

Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 76

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858 (to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes) the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following technical corrections:

(1) In section 1, strike "2007" and insert "2008".

(2) In section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 2) strike subsection (j) and insert the following:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

"(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under subsection (a)(1), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

\$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

"(2) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(3) In section 1110(d) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 3), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(4) In section 4(2)(A), insert " , respectively" before the semicolon.

(5) In section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 4)—

(A) in subsection (d)(2), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(B) in subsection (e), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(C) in subsection (f), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(D) in subsection (g), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(6) In section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 5)—

(A) in subsection (b)(4)(D), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(B) in subsection (d), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$2,531,250 for fiscal year 2010, \$2,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, \$2,593,750 for fiscal year 2012, and \$2,625,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(7) In section 1113(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(8) In section 1114(e) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(9) In section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 7) strike "and or" and insert " , or".

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4525. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4526. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4525. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 98, strike lines 11 through 14 and insert the following:

(250) in item number 3909 by striking the project description and inserting "S.R. 281,

the Avalon Boulevard Expansion Project from Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 90”;

**SA 4526.** Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 107, strike line 24 and all that follows through page 108, line 3, and insert the following:

Washington County”;

(87) in item number 5161 by striking the project description and inserting “Raleigh Street Extension Project in Martinsburg”;

and  
(88) in item number 2406 by striking “in Fort Worth” and inserting “, or Construct SH 199 (Henderson St.) through the Trinity Uptown Project between the West Fork and Clear Fork of the Trinity River, in Fort Worth”.

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, has been postponed.

The purpose of this hearing was to consider S. 2438, a bill to repeal certain provisions of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

For further information, please contact Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883 or David Brooks at 202-224-9863.

### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled “The Impact of the Credit Crunch on Small Business,” on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 934 and H.R. 1374, to amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, and for other purposes; S. 2833, to provide for the management of certain public land in Owyhee County, Idaho, and for other purposes; and S. 2834, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, and improve public land in Wash-

ington County, Utah, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to [rachel\\_pasternack@energy.senate.gov](mailto:rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2007, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 2680, Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Environmental Improvement Act of 2008; S. 2805, Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Act; S. 2814, Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act; H.R. 29, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 1803, San Diego Water Storage and Efficiency Act of 2007; H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to [Gina\\_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov](mailto:Gina_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact Michael Connor or Gina Weinstock.

## PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 477, H.R. 1119.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1119) to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1119) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

## MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3352

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 3352 be discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 513, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A resolution (S. Res. 513) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 513) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

### S. RES. 513

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a “special message” to the Senate and the House of Representatives that “earnestly recommended passage” of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring “our Army . . . to the highest point of efficiency”;

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, “strongly commending . . . proposed legislation” to “increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army” by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled “An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States



Army", ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deploying or providing mobilized soldiers and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential com-

bat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas more than one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions have consistently been marked by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our Nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

#### CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 70, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### CALLING ON THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENTS, MULTILATERAL BODIES, AND NON-STATE ACTORS IN CHAD, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND SUDAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 470, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) calling on the relevant governments, multilateral bodies, and non-state actors in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan to devote ample political commitment and material resources towards the achievement and implementation of a negotiated resolution to the national and regional conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 470

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely among Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder, banditry, forced recruitment, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and other crimes that are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these

countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, rebels stormed the capital of Chad, N'Djamena, in their second coup attempt in two years, prompting clashes with forces loyal to President of Chad Idriss Deby that caused more than 100 civilian deaths, thousands of displacements, and an estimated 10,000 refugees from Chad to seek refuge in neighboring Cameroon;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, the United States Embassy in N'Djamena was forced to evacuate employees' families and all non-emergency staff and urged United States citizens to defer all travel to Chad;

Whereas, on February 2, 2008, the United States Government condemned the armed attack on N'Djamena and expressed "support [for] the [African Union]'s call for an immediate end to armed attacks and to refrain from violence that might harm innocent civilians";

Whereas, on February 12, 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that recent offensives by the Government of Sudan in Darfur have prompted up to 12,000 new refugees to flee to neighboring Chad, where the UNHCR and its partners are already struggling to take care of 240,000 refugees from Sudan in eastern Chad and some 50,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas cross-border attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad have also resulted in the displacement of an estimated 170,000 people from Chad in the region, adding to the humanitarian need;

Whereas there have been allegations and evidence in both Chad and Sudan of government support for dissident rebel militias in each other's country, in direct violation of the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006;

Whereas, on January 16, 2008, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north of that country have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas, since late 2007, arrests, disappearances, and harassment of journalists, human rights defenders, and opposition leaders—particularly those reporting on military operations and human rights conditions in eastern Chad—mirror the repressive crackdown in the aftermath of an attack on N'Djamena in April 2006, and conditions have only worsened since the February 2008 attempted coup;

Whereas, on September 27, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), authorizing a limited United Nations peacekeeping mission (MINURCAT) and a concurrent European-led force (EUFOR), which is permitted to "take all necessary measures" to protect refugees, civilians, and aid workers in eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic;

Whereas, despite the explicit support of President Deby, deployment of both the 3,700 EUFOR troops and the 350 MINURCAT officers has been hampered by political and security delays as well as insufficient resources; and

Whereas continuing hostilities will undermine efforts to bring security to Sudan's Darfur region, dangerously destabilize volatile political and humanitarian situations in Chad and the Central African Republic, and

potentially disrupt progress towards peace in southern Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses the concern and compassion of the citizens of the United States for the hundreds of thousands of citizens of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been gravely affected by this inter-related violence and instability;

(2) calls upon all parties to these conflicts to cease hostilities immediately and uphold basic human rights;

(3) urges the governments of Chad and Sudan, with support from other key regional and international stakeholders, including France, Libya, and China, to commit to another round of inclusive negotiations towards a sustainable political solution for national and regional stability facilitated and monitored by impartial third-party leadership;

(4) calls upon the governments of Chad and Sudan to reaffirm their commitment to the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006, refrain from any actions that violate these agreements, and cease all logistical, financial, and military support to insurgent groups;

(5) urges the Government of Chad to increase political participation, strengthen democratic institutions, respect human rights, improve accountability and transparency as well as the provision of basic services, and uphold its commitment to protect its own citizens in order to redeem the legitimacy of the Government in the eyes of its citizens and the international community;

(6) calls for diplomatic and material support from the United States and the international community to facilitate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive peace process that includes an inclusive dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to end violence, demobilize militias, and promote return and reconstruction for internally displaced persons and refugees; and

(7) encourages the United States Government and the international community to provide immediate and ongoing support for the multilateral peacekeeping missions in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the northern Central African Republic, along with adequate assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and security needs of the individuals and areas most affected by these interrelated conflicts.

#### TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1858

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 76, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 76) to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 76) was agreed to, as follows:

#### S. CON. RES. 76

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858 (to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated follow-up care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes) the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following technical corrections:

(1) In section 1, strike "2007" and insert "2008".

(2) In section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 2) strike subsection (j) and insert the following:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

"(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under subsection (a)(1), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

"(2) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(3) In section 1110(d) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 3), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(4) In section 4(2)(A), insert " , respectively" before the semicolon.

(5) In section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 4)—

(A) in subsection (d)(2), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(B) in subsection (e), strike "2007" and insert "2008";

(C) in subsection (f), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(D) in subsection (g), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(6) In section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 5)—

(A) in subsection (b)(4)(D), strike "2007" and insert "2008"; and

(B) in subsection (d), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$2,531,250 for fiscal year 2010, \$2,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, \$2,593,750 for fiscal year 2012, and \$2,625,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(7) In section 1113(b) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(8) In section 1114(e) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 6), strike "2008" and all that follows and insert "2009, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2012, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

(9) In section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 7) strike "and or" and insert " , or" .

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15,  
2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to

speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill, and that all time during any morning business, recess, or adjournment count against cloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10 a.m.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KELSIE HUTCHINSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsie Hutchinson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsie Hutchinson is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsie Hutchinson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsie Hutchinson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING TIMOTHY ANDERSEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Timothy D. Andersen of Parkville, Missouri. Timothy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Timothy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Timothy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Timothy D. Andersen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING EMILE LASALLE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emile LaSalle upon his recognition at the 2008 Future Farmers of America Blue and Gold Gala. Mr. LaSalle will

be honored by the California FFA Foundation on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at PR Farms in Clovis, California.

Mr. LaSalle was born in 1918 in Bellflower, California to French immigrant parents. He grew up working on his family's farm and dairy after school and on the weekends. He spoke only French when he began school. This did not hold him back; he graduated from Excelsior High School at seventeen years old. In high school he participated on the track and tennis teams. During his junior year, he joined Future Farmers of America and successfully competed in livestock judging and public speaking.

Mr. LaSalle was awarded a one hundred dollar scholarship for college and decided to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He worked his way through college milking cows. It was in the dairy barn where he met Helen McPhee, the daughter of Cal Poly President Julian McPhee. Mr. LaSalle completed his education at Utah State and in 1942 married Helen. Shortly after finishing school, he began his first agriculture teaching assignment at Manteca High School.

In 1944, Mr. LaSalle enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served until 1946. In 1948 he and his family moved to Hanford, California and entered into the dairy business. In 1953 he accepted a position at Hanford High School teaching agriculture. After teaching for 13 years, Mr. LaSalle assumed the position of South Coast Regional Supervisor for the California State Department of Education.

1976 brought retirement. This did not slow Mr. LaSalle down. Rather he began farming alfalfa in the Creston area. He became active on the Atascadero School Board and followed other political endeavors. At 79 years old he purchased an 80 acre farm in Stratford and has expanded his farm to 800 acres. Nearing his 90th birthday he continues to grow alfalfa and oat hay. He also still often visits the Cal Poly campus, visiting and discussing agriculture with the students. Mr. LaSalle is the father of six, grandfather of seventeen and great-grandfather of eight.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Emile LaSalle for sharing his passion for agriculture and dedication to agriculture education and the Future Farmers of America. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Emile LaSalle many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
SHAUN O'KEEFE FOR WINNING  
THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Shaun O'Keefe always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Shaun O'Keefe on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY OF SYRACUSE

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Salvation Army of Syracuse, New York.

Founded in 1883, the Salvation Army of Syracuse, New York, was started by four young volunteers who had a great desire to serve others. This organization became well established in the area and by 1898 was providing those in need with food and shelter.

Since its humble beginnings, the Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area has seen tremendous growth. Serving over 30,000 people annually, 2,000 volunteers give generously of their time and talents. This fine organization provides valuable programs to those in need, including a food pantry, day care, counseling, and housing.

Over the years, my office has had the privilege of working with both former Executive Director Bobbie Schofield and current Executive Director Linda Wright. Their tireless dedication and professionalism have always served as an inspiration. In particular, I continue to be impressed by the caliber of programs developed by the Salvation Army in response to the ever changing needs of our community.

The Salvation Army of Syracuse has graciously served others, and I am proud to recognize it today. I congratulate Executive Director Linda M. Wright and her dedicated staff—both past and present—on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the people of the 25th district of New York, I thank them for their 125 years of service that has been such a positive influence on the community.

TRIBUTE TO ED LAVERY

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected firefighter, Ed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lavery, who for more than 50 years steadfastly served and protected the people of Williamsville, New York.

Even as a young boy growing up in Williamsville, Ed was drawn to fire engines. Often Ed would jump on his bike as soon as he heard the sound of fire engines to watch the firefighters battle the blaze. Due to his determination and perseverance Ed was forced to part with his bike after he joined the Fire Department when he crashed into a wall after his bikes brakes failed.

With his straight talk and hard work ethic, Ed quickly became captain of the Williamsville Fire Department. He served five years as assistant chief, and in 1974, was elected chief. He also served as president in 1985. Along with serving the Fire Department, Ed worked for the Amherst Engineering Department where he was the general foreman until he retired in 1999. Ed was also a part-time dispatcher at the Amherst Central Fire Alarm Office, which handles emergency calls for all companies protecting Amherst, Clarence and Newstead.

Known for his candor and dry wit, Ed continues to be involved with the department. He often will join the firefighters in responding to Fires and check to make sure the pumbers are operating correctly. None of his family and friends foresee him quitting any time soon.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service for more than 50 years to the people of Williamsville, NY, for his leadership, his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves, I ask this honorable body to join me in honoring Ed Lavery.

KAMILA HOSAJA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kamila Hosaja who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kamila Hosaja is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kamila Hosaja is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kamila Hosaja for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

HONORING ELLIOTT GEOFF  
WATKINS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elliott Geoff Watkins of

Trimble, Missouri. Elliott is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1008, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elliott has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elliott has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elliott Geoff Watkins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON RECEIVING AN INVITATION TO JOIN NATO

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Croatian Caucus, Congressman VISCLOSKY, to congratulate the Republic of Croatia on receiving an invitation to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, at the Alliance's recent summit in Bucharest.

The inclusion of Croatia into NATO has been the highest priority of the Congressional Croatian Caucus. I am excited to see a country that has demonstrated leadership in the region of southeast Europe in implementing comprehensive reforms under Euro-Atlantic integrations welcomed into NATO. My Congressional Croatian Caucus co-chair, Congressman PETER VISCLOSKY, and I sent letters to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense last November encouraging the administration to express support for this goal.

This historic event serves as important recognition of Croatia's capability to assume responsibilities of NATO membership as well as be an effective contributor to collective defense and security. I am fully convinced that a vote of confidence by the U.S. through expeditious ratification of Croatia's membership into NATO will allow this country to be a more valuable ally to the United States and further enhance the strategic partnership between our two countries.

This partnership stems from deep historical and cultural links between the U.S. and Croatia, commencing with the recognition of America's Independence by the Republic of Dubrovnik in 1783. Since its independence, Croatia has made significant progress in achieving democracy and undertaking comprehensive political, economic and defense reforms on its path to Euro-Atlantic integrations.

Furthermore, the successful recent visit by President George W. Bush to Croatia on April 4-5, 2008, reaffirmed the importance of the U.S.-Croatian relationship and underscored the common values shared by our two countries. In this respect, I would like to enter into the RECORD highlights from the speeches delivered by President George W. Bush, Croatian President Stjepan Mesic and Prime Minister Dr. Ivo Sanader in Zagreb, during the President's recent visit to Croatia on April 4 and 5, 2008.

Finally, many individuals have worked very hard to see this important invitation come to fruition. I would like to especially thank Congressman VISCLOSKY, the multitude of Croatian nationals and Croatian Americans for their steadfast commitment to this cause and to furthering the U.S.-Croatian partnership.

PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRESIDENT MESIC OF  
CROATIA, APRIL 4, 2008

PRESIDENT MESIC: . . . Croatia is a small country with a tradition of statehood which can be traced back to the distant 10th century. However, it has appeared on the political map of the world as an independent country less than 20 years ago. The United States is indisputably the leading world power, and its history spans somewhat more than two centuries. However, in such a relatively short time the United States has given, in two global conflicts, an incalculable contribution to the fight against evil and tyranny, and to the victory of freedom and democracy.

I shall not spend too many words in reminding you of the many historic ties between our two countries—from the Croatian community in America and Croatian immigrants like the brilliant inventor Nikola Tesla, through the fact that Dubrovnik, the jewel of the Croatian Adriatic, then an independent republic, was among the first to recognize the young United States, all the way to our alliance in the war against Nazism and fascism and the cooperation we had in the times when Croatia was part of Yugoslavia. That, as I said, is the past, but a past which must be known and on the foundations of which we must continue to build.

And what we have to build, however different we may be—in terms of size, strength and potential, occasionally also in terms of views regarding a particular issue—is a world of peace, security and stability, a world of progress and prosperity for all. We have to build mutual trust and appreciation regardless of differences, even in spite of differences. Constructive talk is possible only in conditions of mutual trust, and the idea that all outstanding issues can and must be resolved by negotiation can become reality only on such terms.

We live in a world encumbered by many problems, and we are faced by many challenges. We can only withstand them together, in a harmonized way, by proceeding from the awareness that problems like global terrorism, regional crises, poverty, global warming and destruction of the environment are problems affecting all of us, perhaps not to the same extent or at the same time; these are indisputably problems affecting every state and we can deal with them, let me repeat, only jointly. Having said that, I certainly have in mind the role which the United Nations can and must play.

I can note with pleasure that the relations between Croatia and the United States are on the upswing. Let me reiterate a point I have made many times: Croatia offers the hand of friendship to everyone wishing to cooperate with it in conditions of equality and satisfaction of mutual interests.

I have already mentioned that Croatia is a small country. We need and seek allies and friends throughout the world— allies and friends who will wish to cooperate with us while respecting our identity and our special qualities, taking due account of their and our national interests, and proceeding from the fact that a policy based on meeting interests is not inconsistent with a policy relying on certain firm principles. I believe that Croatia can have precisely such an ally and friend in the United States.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you for the support given by the United States in

the achievement of two priority goals of Croatia's foreign policy: accession to the European Union and to NATO. By receiving the invitation for NATO at the recent Bucharest summit we have accomplished a decisive step towards NATO membership. I am also convinced that our negotiations on accession to the European Union will continue successfully after a brief standstill . . .

PRESIDENT BUSH: . . . We appreciate your gracious hospitality. And we celebrate your invitation to become one of America's closest allies. I—you said you're from a small country. I'm impressed by the big hearts—and the big basketball team.

We are so proud of our relationship, Mr. President. We share common values. We believe in human rights and human dignity. We believe there's a Creator that has given every man, woman and child on the face of the Earth the great gift of freedom. We believe markets are capable of unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit of our peoples. We understand that freedom requires sacrifice.

I salute the people of your country for your courage and willingness to help a young democracy in Afghanistan not only thrive but succeed. I appreciate the friends who have stared evil in the face and understand there's a better tomorrow.

And so, Mr. President, I bring the greetings of my country to your beautiful land . . .

PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRIME MINISTER SANADER ADDRESSING THE CROATIAN PEOPLE ON ST. MARKS SQUARE, ZAGREB, APRIL 5, 2008

PRIME MINISTER SANADER: . . . Today, together with you and the free world, we share the same values of freedom, the right of the people and individuals to live in peace and security, values of democracy and human rights, values of dialogue and mutual respect. Our veterans fought for these values in the homeland war. In the defense of these values, more than 15,000 Croatian citizens died. With their memory in our hearts and our souls, today we express our gratitude to them.

And on these values, and on the recognition of mutual interest is where we base constant improvement of our relations and Croatian-American friendship, to the benefit of our peoples and our business communities. But also there are broader messages. On these values, the Euro-Atlantic community of freedom, peace, democracy and well-being continues to be built.

. . . Croatia has made another large step in the realization of the most important goals of our state policy. Dear friends, with the invitation of our country to join NATO, and with the new energy in our negotiations to accede EU, this visit by American President means that the aspirations of many Croatian generations have been fulfilled.

Our citizens in this important success not only see the realization of goals of those brave patriots, our veterans who defended Croatia in the recent difficult times, but also the century-old-long aspirations of Croats—people to go back to it to embrace a free democratic world. Our citizens also know that NATO today has supported the values they value and respect. Our negotiations with EU successfully leading to full membership in the next very brief period are also part of the same goal. In brief, Croatia is going where it belongs; Croatia is going back home.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, the world is still not a totally secure place. Still in many ways, and for many ways, the fundamental civilization values which we share are threatened. They were attacked also on September 11th. They were attacked also in

this region. Today they are still threatened in too many places across the world. The Euro-Atlantic community also has responsibility in the areas like Afghanistan and Darfur, but also in the resolution of the problems of diseases, poverty, disaster prevention, and other challenges for international security.

A common understanding of the new nature of global threats for world peace and security, and joint efforts to fight them are the only guarantee of the success, and the only way to continue to build the new international order, the order of cooperation instead of conflict, order of dialogue instead of separation.

. . . The time in which alliances were against each other are gone. Today the times are where we look for allies along the same most—the highest goals of human civilization, freedom and democracy. Not even peace in our neighborhood in southeast Europe is not full. Here still we need to invest in allies, freedom, democracy and equality. Euro-Atlantic integration of this is the most important, historically irreplaceable goal and incentive.

Croatia knew how to realize its future even when it seemed to be uncertain. Today we are at the threshold of Atlantic Alliance and European Union. The power of this success encourages us to continue to support our neighbors in their efforts. This is why we are very pleased to have with us the leaders of Albania, Macedonia, Presidents Bamir Topi and Branko Crvenkovski, Prime Ministers Sali Berisha and Nikola Gruevski.

. . . Mr. President, when I recall your historic speech in Warsaw in 2001, which opened a window of freedom for many countries and peoples, when I see the achievements, when I see how much you still invest in the achievement of lasting peace and stability in southeast Europe, I'm filled with confidence. And I will personally continue to offer my contribution to high common goals of Croatia, U.S.A., Europe and all our most important partners.

Croatia will—more and more in European Union and NATO, continue its responsible mission in southeast Europe. In matching goals of European Union and NATO, we see additional incentive and space for such action.

Once again, Mr. President, I thank you for your visit, for your support and for your friendship.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, the President of the United States, George Bush.

PRESIDENT BUSH: . . . The United States appreciates the leadership you have shown in the cause of freedom. We're pleased Albania and Croatia have been invited to join NATO. And we look forward to Macedonia taking its place very soon in this great alliance for freedom.

Laura, who has joined me today, and I are proud to stand on the soil of an independent Croatia. Our countries are separated by thousands of miles, but we're united by a deep belief in God and the blessings of liberty He gave us. And today, on the edge of the great Adriatic, we stand together as one free people.

Croatia is a very different place than it was just a decade ago. The Croatian people have overcome war and hardship to build peaceful relations with your neighbors, and to build a maturing democracy in one of the most beautiful countries on the face of the Earth. Americans admire your courage and admire your persistence. And we look forward to welcoming you as a partner in NATO.

The invitation to join NATO that Croatia and Albania received this week is a vote of confidence that you will continue to make necessary reforms and become strong con-

tributors to our great Alliance. Henceforth, should any danger threaten your people, America and the NATO Alliance will stand with you, and no one will be able to take your freedom away.

I regret that NATO did not extend an invitation to Macedonia at this week's summit. Macedonia has made difficult reforms at home, and is making major contributions to NATO missions abroad. Unfortunately, Macedonia's invitation was delayed because of a dispute over its name. In Bucharest, NATO allies declared that as soon as this issue is resolved, Macedonia will be extended an invitation to join the Alliance. America's position is clear: Macedonia should take its place in NATO as soon as possible.

. . . The people of this region know what the gift of liberty means. You know the death and destruction that can be caused by the followers of radical ideologies. You know that, in a long run, the only way to defeat a hateful ideology is to promote the hopeful alternative of human freedom. And that is what our nations are doing today in the Middle East. The lack of freedom and opportunity in that region has given aid and comfort to the lies and ambitions of violent extremists. Resentments that began on the streets of the Middle East have resulted in the killing innocent people across the world. A great danger clouds the future of all free men and women, and this danger sits at the doorstep of Europe.

Together the people of this region are helping to confront this danger. Today soldiers from Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are serving bravely in Afghanistan—helping the Afghan people defeat the terrorists and secure their future of liberty. Forces from Albania and Macedonia are serving in Iraq—where they're helping the Iraqi people build a society that rejects terror and lives in freedom. It's only a matter of time before freedom takes root across that troubled region. And when it does, millions will remember the people of your nation stood with them in their hour of need.

At this great moment in history, you have a vital role. There are many people who don't appear to understand why it takes so long to build a democracy. You can tell them how hard it is to put in place a new and complex system of government for the first time. There are those who actually wonder if people were better off under their old tyranny. You can tell them that freedom is the only real path to prosperity and security and peace. And there are those who ask whether the pain and sacrifices for freedom are worth the costs. And they should come to Croatia. And you can show them that freedom is worth fighting for.

The great church in this square has stood since the Middle Ages. Over the centuries, it has seen long, dark winters of occupation and tyranny and war. But the spring is here at last. This is an era in history that generations of Croats have prayed for. It is an era that Pope John Paul the Second envisioned when he came to this land, and prayed with the Croatian people, and asked for "a culture of peace." Today in this square, before this great church, we can now proudly say: Those prayers have been answered.

May you always remember the joy of this moment in your history. And may the hopeful story of a peaceful Croatia find its way to those in the world who live as slaves, and still await a joyful spring.

May God bless Croatia. And thank you for coming.



A PROCLAMATION HONORING WILL MCCOY FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Will McCoy showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Will McCoy was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Will McCoy always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Will McCoy on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING THE JAMESVILLE-DEWITT BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Jamesville-Dewitt Basketball Team, 2008 Class A Champions. The Jamesville-Dewitt Red Rams defeated the East Hampton Bonackers by a score of 78–54, earning Jamesville-Dewitt their third New York State Boys Basketball Championship title.

I had the pleasure of watching J-D play in the Sectional Finals in Syracuse. They are remarkably talented, deep, and well coached. They clearly understand the concept of team basketball.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement, and praise Head Coach Bob McKenney and Assistant Coach Brock Elmore on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Red Rams take court to defend their title in 2009.

Mickey Davis, Tacari Davis, Zach Firestone, Mitchell Howe, Alshwan Hymes, Lamar Kearse, Jon Lee, Antoine Mitchell, Nick Pascale, Dan Piciuccio, Nathan Scholl-Hess, John Sheedy, Greg Stern, Brandon Triche, Mychal Weekes, Marcus Williams

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately this afternoon, April 10, 2008, due to severe weather in the Midwest I had to leave before being able to cast my vote on Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act, offered by my colleague JEFF FLAKE.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 182 on the Flake Amendment No. 8 barring earmarks from the Beach Act, I would have voted "aye."

While I generally believe that Congress should have the power to control where Federal spending should be spent, the Beach Protection Act was intended to be formula-based and was never intended to be funded through the direction of Congress and I believe that this amendment is consistent in that goal.

### JAMIE WASSAM

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jamie Wassam who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jamie Wassam is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jamie Wassam is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jamie Wassam for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

### HONORING AARON PAUL PRICE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Paul Price of Blue Springs, Missouri. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1205, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Paul Price for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI TO THE UNITED STATES

### HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on his first apostolic visit to the United States.

Since April 2005, Pope Benedict XVI has led the Roman Catholic Church admirably, he has served his church faithfully, and focused strongly on the dignity and importance of human life, particularly for those who are often ignored: the elderly, the disabled, and the unborn.

In his first papal visit to the United States of America, Pope Benedict will only be able to visit two cities, but citizens across the Nation, of all faiths and backgrounds, warmly welcome him to our country.

Pope Benedict stands for both truth in the face of relativism and peace and love in the face of violence and hate—it is these strengths that make Pope Benedict's voice and message one that all Americans, and all people around the world, should be eager to hear.

The theme of Pope Benedict's apostolic visit is "Christ our Hope." In his latest Encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict notes, ". . . it is true that anyone who does not know God, even though he may entertain all kinds of hopes, is ultimately without hope, without the great hope that sustains the whole of life (cf. Eph 2:12). Man's great, true hope which holds firm in spite of all disappointments can only be God—God who has loved us and who continues to love us "to the end," until all "is accomplished" (cf. Jn 13:1 and 19:30). Whoever is moved by love begins to perceive what "life" really is. . . . Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. And life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is Life itself and Love itself, then we are in life. Then we "live."'

May all of us, as Americans, be open to Pope Benedict's message of hope this week.

I welcome Pope Benedict XVI in this visit and hope he will return to our Nation again in the near future.

IN HONOR OF TOM MARCHANT OF HANOVER, MINNESOTA

### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Marchant of Hanover, Minnesota, who is this year's winner of the Minnesota American Legion Oratorical Contest. Tom was sponsored by Wayzata Post 118.

Tom spoke on the topic of freedom and responsibility: "Our final responsibility is by far the most honorable and sacrificial. It is the duty to fight for the United States. Many great men and women have answered the call of freedom . . . In deserts and foreign lands,

through sleepless nights and lonely days, they hold high our blessed flag of freedom. We love freedom, and we don't want to lose it. But we must remember, always remember, that freedom didn't and doesn't come free."

Tom was also recently recognized by the Bill of Rights Institute for his essay on Being an American. Tom was 1 of only 30 students chosen from more than 13,000 in 19 states and the District of Columbia for this honor.

The Bill of Rights Institute invited teenage students from across the Nation to write about the ideals that unite us as Americans. Tom wrote eloquently about the vision our Founders had for this Nation and where Tom and his own generation can lead America:

"Perseverance is a sign of great men, and the sign of free men. It is only by God's grace, and our forefathers' perseverance that we can enjoy the privileges of freedom as we do today. As Daniel Webster once said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to defend it." The baton has been passed on to us. So the question is, will we persevere?"

Tom, who has been homeschooled and encouraged in all his pursuits by his parents Todd and Kim, is also active with the National Christian Forensic and Communications Association. He has been both a regional and State champion. Last summer, he participated in Boys State. Tom is also active in his church, where he is a worship leader, and he enjoys singing and playing piano and the guitar.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES (JIM) R.  
HALUSKY

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor James (Jim) R. Halusky, Director of International Operations in the Aerospace Systems Division at Northrop Grumman Corporation, on the occasion of his retirement after over 40 years of service.

Jim graduated from Grove City College with a bachelor's degree and has since completed a variety of executive level development programs. He began his career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation (now Northrop Grumman Corporation) in July 1967 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as an electrical design engineer. He has served Northrop Grumman Corporation in a number of different capacities. As Director of Engineering Design and Manager of International Armament Cooperative Programs, Jim made important contributions to many of the electronic systems contained in the industry's most advanced systems, such as the F-16, F-22, JSF, and the C-130.

Northrop Grumman's Electronic Systems Sector located in Linthicum, Maryland, is a leading developer, manufacturer, integrator and supporter of a variety of advances electronic and maritime systems for U.S. and international customers for national security and non-defense applications.

As Director of International Operations for the Aerospace Systems Division of the Electronic Systems Sector, Jim had primary responsibility to support all facets of the Aerospace Division's ongoing international pro-

grams as well as future developing international opportunities. His responsibilities centered on managing the Division's Export Compliance and Offset/Countertrade requirements. He worked closely with various U.S. Government agencies such as DTSA, DSCA, SAF/IA and N-IPO and with various industry partners such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin. Jim had considerable experience working with numerous international industry affiliates such as MELCO, Terma and Thales.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor James (Jim) R. Halusky. His legacy as a creative leader in electronic systems pioneering and his 40 years of distinguished service to the industry will be forever remembered. It is with great pride that I congratulate Jim Halusky on his exemplary career in electronic and technological defense.

FELICIA GILMORE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Felicia Gilmore who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Felicia Gilmore is a student at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Felicia Gilmore is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Felicia Gilmore for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

HONORING LEVI WILSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Levi Samuel Wilson of Grain Valley, Missouri. Levi is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Levi has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Levi has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Levi Samuel Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE REAL CHINA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my ongoing concern about China. I strongly believe that America must be a country that stands up for basic decency and human rights. America must speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted for their religious or political beliefs. Our foreign policy must be a policy that helps promote human rights and freedom, and not a policy that sides with dictators who oppress their own citizens.

Every person on earth has certain inalienable rights. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, Ronald Reagan noted that the U.S. Constitution has been described "as a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind." Reagan continued that "It's a human covenant; yes, and beyond that, a covenant with the Supreme Being to whom our Founding Fathers did constantly appeal for assistance." America has a profound responsibility to keep this covenant and to stand up for freedom in the world's darkest corners.

China is a perfect example of a place where these rights are not being protected. The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing. It is more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to democratic values than ever before.

China is actively engaged in espionage against the United States. I recently had the opportunity to read the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission's 2007 Classified Report to the Congress, and found the report's conclusions to be very alarming. The unclassified version of this report is available at [www.usce.eov](http://www.usce.eov). I strongly urge you to read it, as it gives a clear picture of the threat that China poses to our national security.

The report addresses Chinese activities in the areas of espionage, cyber warfare, and arms proliferation. The FBI has described Chinese espionage as a "substantial threat" and the Bureau of Customs and Border Patrol has reported publicly that Chinese espionage is now the leading threat to U.S. technology. It has also been widely reported that many cyber attacks against the U.S. government are suspected of originating in China. Furthermore, China continues to transfer weapons and technology to nations of concern and non-state actors, putting men and women in American uniform abroad in grave danger.

You may have also seen the April 3 Washington Post article titled, "Chinese Spy 'Slept' in U.S. for Two Decades," which details the spying activities of Chi Mak. Mak lived quietly with his family in a Los Angeles suburb for two decades while he built his career around secretly copying sensitive plans for Navy weapons, submarines and ships and couring them to the Chinese government. U.S. intelligence and Justice Department officials believe the Mak case "represents only a small facet of a [Chinese] intelligence-gathering operation that has long been in place and is growing in size and sophistication." I have enclosed a copy of this article for your review.

China also poses a deadly threat to its own citizens. Manfred Nowak, the UN Special Rapporteur for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, has found that Chinese officials specifically target house church groups. Falun Gong adherents, Tibetans, and Uyghur prisoners and abuse them.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation reports that in 2007, 35 Roman Catholic bishops were in jail, under house arrest, or harassed and put under surveillance. The Chinese government has refused to acknowledge the Vatican as the supreme authority for Chinese Catholics in many matters of faith. More information on the Chinese government's persecution of the Catholic Church can be found at [www.cardinalkungfoundation.org](http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org).

In 2007, the Chinese government arrested 693 Christians that we know of. The China Aid Association reports that in 2007 the known cases in which Christian house churches were persecuted by the government covered 18 provinces and one municipality directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government and there were 60 cases of persecution, up 30.4% from that of 2006. You can read more about China's persecution of Christians at <http://chinaaid.org>.

Muslims and Buddhists face persecution by the Chinese government as well. Renowned human rights advocate and Uyghur Muslim Rebiya Kadeer has watched from exile as the Chinese government arrests and beats her family members in her homeland. In late 2006, western mountain climbers captured on videotape a horrifying scene: Chinese police shooting from their North Face tents at a group of Tibetan refugees crossing Nangpa Pass. A 17-year old Buddhist nun was killed and several others were wounded. Additional information on the persecution of Muslims, Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners and other minorities can be found in the State Department's annual human rights report at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>.

According to the State Department's 2007 human rights report, China has 20 ankaung institutions (high-security psychiatric hospitals for the criminally insane) directly administered by the Ministry of Public Security. People that are committed to these institutions have no mechanism for objecting to public security officials' determinations of mental illness.

The Chinese government often houses dissidents in these institutions, beating them, giving them medicine against their will, forcibly subjecting them to electric shock treatment and denying them food and the use of toilet facilities. According to the State Department's human rights report, political activists, underground religious believers, members of the banned China Democratic Party (CDP), and Falun Gong practitioners are among the people incarcerated in these facilities.

China maintains an extensive system of gulags—slave labor camps, also known as the “laogai”—as large as that which existed in the former Soviet Union. These camps are used for brainwashing and “reeducation through labor,” and are often the site of barbaric procedures of organ harvesting, torture, and execution. During a trip to China in March 1991, I visited Beijing Prison No. 1 and witnessed forced labor first-hand. In late 2005, I introduced H. Con. Res. 294, a resolution condemning the Laogai prison camps, which passed in the House by a vote of 413–1.

China has a long history of attempts to liquidate Tibet's culture and presence in China, including in the recent crackdown in which scores of Tibetans were killed and hundreds more arrested for participating in the protests. My outrage at what China is doing in Tibet led me to visit Tibet in 1997. I have continued since then to speak out on behalf of the persecuted and suffering in Tibet and about the human rights abuses that I have witnessed first-hand there.

I was disappointed in the State Department's decision in March to remove China from its list of the world's 10 worst human rights violators, especially given State's own admission of China's poor human rights record in its annual human rights report. I also remain deeply troubled by the President's decision to attend the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. It is time to send China a message that the United States is serious when we tell the Chinese government that it needs to end the human rights and religious freedom abuses in its own country.

China poses a threat to freedom in other countries as well. China, which is a major business partner of Sudan, should be using its influence with the Sudanese government to bring an end to the genocide in the Darfur region. Instead, Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Khartoum early in 2007 did not produce progress on this point, but rather a commitment by the Chinese to build Sudanese President Bashir a new palace. China's role in extracting oil from Sudan, selling weapons to the Sudanese government and maintaining close business relations with this genocidal regime are clearly more important to the Chinese government than saving human lives.

China also cuts corners with its exports, making products that pose significant danger to consumers around the world. Recent Chinese exports to our country—and to many others—have included tainted pet food that has killed our pets, dried apples in cancer-causing chemicals, scallops and sardines coated with putrefying bacteria, children's toys containing lead-based paint, and prunes tinted with chemical dyes, prompting U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspectors to travel across the world to investigate two suspect Chinese factories, only to find the factories had been cleaned out and all equipment dismantled.

Chinese products also poison children in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Australia, with toothpaste containing an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some anti-freeze. This toothpaste was marketed under the brand name “Mr. Cool.”

Several years ago, during the debate over granting China permanent normal trade relations status, proponents argued that economic liberalization would lead to political liberalization in China, and that the U.S. and other industrialized nations could influence China through economic activity to better respect the rights of its citizens to fundamental human rights.

I strongly opposed Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status for China, and today we have seen why the protection of basic liberties should not come second to economic growth. China is more violent, repressive, and resistant to democratic values than it was before we opened our ports to freely accept Chinese products.

And despite all of these abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting

the 2008 Olympics. The Olympic Games: an event designed to lift up “the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles,” according to its own charter. Does China's behavior sound like a “good example” to the rest of the world? Or that it is reflecting “fundamental ethical principles” that all nations should aspire to?

It is because of these actions I have described that I do not support the president or other senior U.S. officials attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The political prisoners in China and Chinese dissidents around the world will be deeply demoralized by what the Chinese government will surely portray as symbolic support for its regime if senior American officials attend the games. I have proposed language for inclusion in the 2008 emergency supplemental appropriations bill that would prohibit U.S. federal employees from attending the Olympics on the taxpayer's dime.

Some assert that human rights will come to China once stability has been attained. They say that protection of human rights is secondary to attaining economic power and wealth. We must reject that notion. China poses a threat not only to its own citizens, but to the entire world. The United States government must be vigilant about protecting the values of human rights, religious freedom and democracy that we hold dear.

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HONORING THOMAS WYSCAVER

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas L. Wycaver for his service and leadership in the Boy Scouts of America.

Thomas has dedicated his time and his heart to the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council serves over 55,000 youth with the assistance and mentorship of over 11,000 adult volunteers. Thomas is a standout among equals in his commitment to instill the values of service and patriotism in the young men of our nation.

Due to his outstanding and distinguished service to the Denver Area Council, Thomas is being awarded the Silver Beaver Award, a recognition given to Scouting's volunteers for their exemplary service and character. It is the organization's highest honor. Thomas has been able to support the Denver Council in all 10 counties that it serves and has helped countless young men from Cub Scouting to Venturing programs.

It is an honor for me to recognize Thomas and highlight his dedication to the youth of our nation. The Centennial State is glad to call him our own.

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BRITTANY FIALA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Fiala

who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Fiala is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Fiala is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Fiala for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

#### HONORING ETHAN CLARK

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Scott Clark of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ethan Scott Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING THE LINCOLN WILDCATS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lincoln Wildcats basketball team, winners of the Illinois Elementary School Association's Boys Class 4A State Championship.

This outstanding group of young men from Edwardsville, Illinois, took the State championship in February with a thrilling one point win over Normal Kingsley in the State finals. For the season, they posted a record of 24 wins against only 5 losses. Today I want to recognize coach Dustin Battas and assistant coach Matt Rogers, and the members of the Edwardsville Lincoln Wildcats State championship team: Diarra Cropper, Quincy Morgan, Brendan Colligan, Blake Brown, Casey Thebeau, Maleek Malone, Derek Page, Brian Gifford, Austin Abegg, Tony Miner, Jacob Nolan, Tyler Ogden, Will Suttles, Alex Jackson and Jared Krebs-Carr.

These student-athletes have made our community proud, and have represented Edwardsville with great honor. I congratulate them on bringing home the State title, and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 153–160 on April 2 and April 3, 2008. If present, I would have voted:

Rollcall vote No. 153, Approval of the Journal, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 154, Previous Question, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 155, Rule for H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 156, Carson Amendment that directs the Coordinator of US Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to expand their plan for strengthening health systems of host countries by allowing for postsecondary educational institutions, particularly in Africa, to collaborate with postsecondary educational institutions and specifically historically black colleges and universities in the United States, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 157, Motion to Recommit H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 158, Final Passage of H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, “nay.”

Rollcall vote No. 159, Motion to Recommit H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, “aye.”

Rollcall vote No. 160, Final Passage of H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, “aye.”

#### KAYOUA CHA

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayoua Cha who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayoua Cha is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayoua Cha is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education

and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kayoua Cha for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

#### HONORING DAVID KING

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David James King of Kansas City, Missouri. David is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1900, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David James King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a shame that the research tax credit expired at the end of 2007. Our failure to re-authorize it is counter to the ideals of the America COMPETES Act, passed into law last summer.

At least nine research tax credit bills have been introduced in this Congress.

Last March, I introduced H.R. 1712, a companion bill to that of Senator BAUCUS, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. It changes the formula so that the credit is based on a company's research spending instead of gross receipts. It proposes a 20 percent credit for U.S. research expenses exceeding 50 percent of a company's average expenses over the preceding 3 years.

It establishes a more streamlined 80 percent reimbursement rate for all contract research expenses and allows a credit for equity investments in small business innovation companies. Most importantly, the Baucus/Johnson proposal makes the R&D tax credit permanent.

Texas ranks 4th in the Nation for total R&D funding and 3rd for gross State product. Innovation and research are critical for my State.

Again, I strongly support a generous and permanent research tax credit.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROOKE  
GARCIA: A BRAVE IDAHOAN

**HON. BILL SALI**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Brooke Garcia of Caldwell, ID. On Thursday night, April 10, Brooke displayed courage, bravery and maturity well beyond her young 17 years of age.

While driving down Interstate 84 in Caldwell, Brooke witnessed a car accident. Her quick thinking led her to stop her car and run to the burning wreckage. Brooke then had to break the back window of the smoke-filled car and reach through the broken window to pull out a 3-year-old toddler from his seat. She said she didn't even think about not stopping.

Police on the scene said if Brooke hadn't gotten to the child as quickly as she did, things would have turned out differently. She saved the toddler's life.

I admire Brooke's composure after witnessing such a terrible accident. I am honored to recognize the heroic efforts of this young lady. I applaud and am grateful for her example to our fellow Idahoans and all Americans.

Brooke's valiant action is yet another reminder of why I am proud to be an Idahoan and to represent the First Congressional District of the Gem State.

Brooke attends Caldwell High School and is the daughter of Amy and Gerald Garcia. They are rightly proud of their wonderful daughter.

I trust that all my colleagues will join me in recognizing Brooke for her actions and character. She represents the best of Idaho's next generation.

JOHN KENNEDY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Kennedy who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Kennedy is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Kennedy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to John Kennedy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 171. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PATRICK KELLY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Reese Kelly of Blue Springs, Missouri. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick Reese Kelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was out of town attending a memorial service last week. I missed rollcall vote Nos. 161 thru 177. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on votes 161 thru 167, 171, and 174 thru 177. I would have voted "nay" on votes 168, 169, 170, 172, and 173.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS' AWARDS RECIPIENTS

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2007 Minnesota Associated Press Broadcasters awardees as leaders in radio and television broadcasting. In particular, I would like to recognize those winners serving Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, including KNSI-AM, KVSC-FM, WJON-AM, KXSS-AM, KTLK-FM, MPR, KARE-TV, and KSTP-TV.

These winners are the elite in their field, and they should all be proud of their hard work and achievements. Specifically, I would like to recognize the contributions of KTLK-FM and their program director Steve Versnick for their outstanding accomplishments in radio, securing two awards for their work in 2007. Jeff Monosso and Jason Lewis were winners of the Radio Class III, Spot/Hard News category for their spot, "35W Bridge Collapse," and Jeff Monosso won a second award for a Radio Class III Newscast, titled, "2007 Newscast."

In the years ahead, these news outlets will continue to provide Minnesotans with the best coverage of the events affecting our daily lives. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize these radio and television stations as among the best in Minnesota news broadcasting.

GABE BACA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabe Baca who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gabe Baca is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabe Baca is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Gabe Baca for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 125th anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation and one of the leading members of the Crittenton Family of Agencies, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, which also celebrates 120 years of service.

Since 1887, Crittenton Services has been proud to serve more than 20,000 adolescent women in the Greater Washington region with a singular focus: to strengthen the ability of teen women to identify and achieve their academic, career and life goals.

The Crittenton Mission was awarded a National Charter through a special act of Congress signed by President William McKinley in 1898. An amendment to the Charter was

signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt, which extended the national Mission into perpetuity and provided funds to establish a local agency.

Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, the pioneering physician and dedicated leader of the Crittenton movement played a critical role in developing a holistic approach to supporting young mothers and their children. Her compassionate approach formed the cornerstone of Crittenton's PEARLS program which strengthens young women's ability to set and meet their personal and life goals. Today, the agency still awards a Barrett scholarship that allows adolescent mothers to continue their education.

Dr. Barrett's belief that all adolescents need a warm and supportive atmosphere also remains an important component of Crittenton's SNEAKERS Program which teaches important skills to non-pregnant teens ages 13–18.

Building on Dr. Barrett's legacy, Crittenton employs national best practices to develop and implement holistic programs that ensure a consistent and positive presence in the lives of the teen women it serves. Crittenton staff members integrate support, education and skills-building into four- to five-year programs individually tailored to the needs of each participant. These programs produce measurable results focused on three strategic objectives: (1) improve academic performance (2) increase workplace readiness and (3) increase the adoption of healthy behaviors. These three objectives make Crittenton Services a national leader in serving girls and adolescents at risk.

I am honored to acknowledge Crittenton Services of Greater Washington and its long and distinguished record of community service in our region as well as its continuing evolution into an effective 21st century partner.

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CHENG YANG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cheng Yang who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cheng Yang is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cheng Yang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Cheng Yang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the passage of H. Res. 1092, a resolution designed to block consideration of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This resolution will more than likely prevent the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement from receiving an up-or-down vote during the 110th Congress. I believe we should have an open and fair debate on every free trade agreement. The normal process established by law in which free trade agreements are considered allows Members of Congress opportunities to raise concerns regarding free trade that they heard from their constituents.

I disagree with the decision by the President to send this agreement to Congress without the necessary consent of both the House and Senate. However, I am concerned the passage of H. Res. 1092, which suspends the 60-day time line for a House floor vote on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, will only serve to deepen the already existing partisan divide in Washington.

Along with my fellow colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I closely weigh the potential costs and benefits of each free trade agreement the President negotiates. Furthermore, I believe in order for these agreements to be evaluated thoroughly, they must be considered by the normal process established by law. The resolution adopted today undercuts this process.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons I voted against H. Res. 1092 along with 195 of my colleagues. I hope in the coming months Members of the House and Senate will have the opportunity to debate and assess the potential value of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

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AMBER CROWELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amber Crowell who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Amber Crowell is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Crowell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Amber Crowell for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

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HONORING THE USA TAP DANCE TEAM ON THEIR SUCCESS AT THE WORLD TAP DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the USA Tap Dance Team, based out of the Greater New Haven area, as they celebrate their tremendous success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships recently held in Reisa, Germany. In all, 51 dancers ranging in age from 10 to 20 years old made the trip and returned with a total of 11 medals! Our communities certainly have cause for celebration with the wonderful accomplishments of these young people.

Participating in three divisions, the USA Tap Dance Team has worked very hard over the last several months to be able to compete in this year's competitions. Coming together from across Connecticut and even New York, the dancers practiced for countless hours for solo, duo, small group, and formation events. The commitment these young people have demonstrated is truly inspiring. They have worked so hard to master the required high-level skills and the necessary symmetry of their movements.

I had the distinct honor of joining them for a very special evening as they prepared to leave for Germany and, as a former tap dancer myself, I was truly impressed with the level of dedication, passion, and talent of the team. It was this combination of drive and spirit that lead to the team to come home with three gold medals, seven silver medals, one bronze medal, and several other finishing places—placing and medaling in each of three divisions—a remarkable showing!

I am also pleased to recognize the incomparable Gloria Jean Cuming for her outstanding leadership and instruction as well as the six choreographers who worked with the dancers and traveled to Germany with them. Their work with individuals and groups helped to secure this outstanding triumph. In addition, I would also extend a note of thanks and appreciation to the parents and volunteers whose support has enabled the dancers to practice and travel for their competitions. Without their efforts, the success of the USA Tap Dance Team would not be possible.

I am thrilled to stand today join our local communities in extending my sincere congratulations to the USA Tap Dance Team on their great success at the 2007 World Tap Dance Championships. You have all made us proud!



HONORING THE WORK OF YOUTH  
SERVICE, INC. OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commemorating the 125th anniversary of the National Florence Crittenton Foundation. I am equally pleased to recognize the organization's deep roots in Philadelphia through Youth Service, Inc. and the tremendous work that has been accomplished on behalf of young women and girls in crisis.

One hundred and sixteen years ago, Charles Crittenton founded the 7th Mission Home in center city Philadelphia. The Mission later moved to the Germantown section of North Philadelphia. During that time, it sheltered young, unwed mothers and provided counseling, parenting workshops, and adoption services. Over the years, as the shifting population of Philadelphia diversified, so did the services at the Crittenton site. What remained constant, however, was the commitment to meeting the needs of youth in crisis.

The core principles of the Crittenton Mission are exemplified in Youth Service, Inc.'s mother & baby group home. Located in West Philadelphia, the home serves expectant and teenage mothers that are unable to remain in their own homes due to conditions of abuse, neglect or abandonment. It offers a structured, nurturing environment, where young women receive comprehensive support and the tools necessary to become self sufficient adults and responsible parents.

The original Crittenton site has remained a fixture in the Germantown community for more than eighty years. Currently, it operates as the Crittenton Family Support Center of Youth Service, Inc. and provides vital support services for women, children and families.

In an area where many residents experience limited opportunities for academic and occupational advancement, the services provided at the Crittenton Family Support Center are of critical importance. For infants and young children, Youth Service, Inc. operates the only Crisis Nursery Programs in Philadelphia, with sites in Germantown and Mantua, respectively.

On behalf of my constituents, I am proud to represent Youth Service, Inc. and to share in their history and dedication to the people of our community and to future generations of Philadelphians.

HONORING LOU COSTANTINO, SR.

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House to reflect on the memory and devotion of a valued employee who loved this institution, Lou Costantino, Sr.

Mr. Costantino's passing over the weekend was a loss to the House of Representatives. He had a deep reverence for this institution and always conducted himself with honor and decency. Whether it was a Member of Con-

gress or a member of the public passing by the door to the floor, Lou treated everyone with equal respect and civility. He was an ambassador for the House of Representatives and the Capitol Hill neighborhood where he spent the majority of his life.

Lou Costantino, Sr. was born in a house on New Jersey Avenue just a couple of blocks from the Capitol. His parents ran a grocery store at that time, the same grocery that Lou would begin running shortly after graduation from high school, along with a carry out, barbershop, and cleaners that his parents opened. He operated these businesses until coming to work for the House of Representatives in 1980.

During those early years, Mr. Costantino met his wife Doris while going to Eastern High School on Capitol Hill. They were married in 1965 at St. Peter's Church and had two children, Eydie and Lou. "There's been a Costantino at St. Peter's for 100 years," he would often remark.

Lou's devotion to family was indicative of the commitment he had for the House of Representatives. He first began his career here in 1980 with the Office of the Doorkeeper. He always loved his job and the people around him, and held the history and the daily workings of the House in the highest esteem. In accordance with his post, and owing to the high regard in which he was held, Mr. Costantino had the honor of escorting the First Lady to her seat for the State of the Union Address, a task he accomplished annually for every First Lady since Nancy Reagan.

Born just a few blocks away, and having worked in the Capitol for more than 25 years, Lou Costantino, Sr. served this institution and his country with honor and distinction. We extend our sympathies to his family during this time of loss. But we also offer our deep and sincere gratitude for the devoted service given by an individual whose qualities represent the best that this institution has to offer.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM S.  
JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today marks the end of an era as Fire Chief William S. Johnson celebrates his retirement after 41 years of dedicated service to the Center Fire District of West Haven, Connecticut. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues and community members who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion.

For more than four decades Chief Johnson has diligently served the West Haven community. For him, it has not only been a job but the extension of a family legacy. His father served as Chief just a decade prior to his own assumption of the title and his grandfather was also a volunteer firefighter. Today, his own son, Lieutenant William S. Johnson, IV also serves in the Department. There are few firefighters in West Haven, volunteer or career, who have not in some way been mentored, inspired, or influenced by Chief Johnson.

Though originally trained as a school teacher, the Chief joined the then West Haven Fire Department, later renamed Center District, in July of 1966. He quickly rose through the ranks of the independent district and was appointed to lead the Department 26 years ago. He is well known, not only in West Haven, but across the state of Connecticut and nationally as an innovative and progressive leader. Chief Johnson is one of the founders of Connecticut's Fire Chiefs' Association and worked for years as a fire science instructor at Waterbury State Technical College, the University of New Haven, and the National Fire Academy. The Chief is credited with being among the first in the state to equip the department with cutting-edge protective equipment and technology. He also used his department as a testing ground for many local and national initiatives and made sure that his Department was among the first to implement such programs as the "Stop Drop, & Roll" educational program for schools and the promotion of fire-retardant clothing for children. I had the opportunity to work with Chief Johnson on the issue of fire-retardant sleepwear for children and was always impressed with the passion and dedication with which he approached and advocated for this important issue.

Throughout a career that has spanned five decades, Chief Johnson has demonstrated a unique commitment and dedication to public service. Too often we take for granted the incredible work of our country's firefighters. I have always held a deep admiration for those who serve as firefighters—each day facing new challenges and seemingly overwhelming responsibility. It takes a unique combination of bravery, compassion, and generosity to serve as a firefighter and especially as Chief. As head of the Center District Department, Chief Johnson made the men and women of the Department his highest priority—always ensuring that they had access to the most current technologies and equipment. Perhaps even more telling, until the day of his retirement and at the age of 71, Chief Johnson not only responded to incidents but joined his men in attacking threatening blazes. The City of West Haven, its residents, and families have certainly been fortunate to have him protecting their community. Mere words cannot begin to repay him for the comfort and security he has provided all.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Chief William S. Johnson and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our community and the discipline of firefighting. His knowledge, skill, and passion for his work have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that is certain to inspire generations to come. I am pleased to stand today to join his wife, Dorothy; children, Michelle, Kimberly, Stephaine, and William; grandchildren, Stephaine, Patrick, Michael, Emery, and Richie; as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues gathered tonight in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chief William S. Johnson as he celebrates his retirement. Chief—you are a reflection of all that we hope our public servants can be and I wish you all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON  
DAVIS

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life of a good friend, outstanding Florida and community leader State Representative Don Davis. Don passed away after a brave battle with cancer on April 10, 2008. He represented part of St. Johns County and Florida's First Coast since 2000.

Those who knew him as their Representative in Tallahassee and the People throughout the State of Florida who worked with him lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants. He served his Nation as a decorated Korean War veteran. He served his community as a true gentleman and someone who was respected by everyone who was honored to know him.

Before representing the people of Jacksonville in the State Legislature, Don was elected to the Jacksonville City Council and was elected several terms as president of the council. His leadership and great sense of humor were special hallmarks by which he will always be remembered. Colleagues remember Don as always willing to lend a helping hand in no matter how big or small a task.

Don was devoted to his community as a leader in the American Cancer Society, the Florida Theatre, The First Tee of Jacksonville, Prisoners of Christ, and other organizations.

Born in Okemah, Oklahoma, he attended the Los Angeles City College (1949–1950), University of Redlands (1950), and the University of California-Los Angeles (1959).

The Jacksonville area, the State of Florida, and our Nation has lost a wonderful and distinguished leader.

To his wife, Alice, and two sons, Donald Jr. and Dean; and on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathy.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc. of Milford, Connecticut as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health need of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West

Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990' by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its fifty year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING IRMA P. HALL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Irma Hall, a grand American and educator, for her commitment to the arts and to the community of Dallas.

The daughter of Josephine Hall, Irma Dolores Player Hall was born in Beaumont, Texas. She was raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, where her father was a saxophone player who performed jazz music. She then went on to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

This native Texan taught school in Dallas ISD for 30 years inspiring many of our youth to succeed. Irma Hall retired from teaching in 1984.

An interest in acting eventually led her to co-find the Dallas Minority Regional Theater with Reginald Montgomery in 1973. She made her stage debut there in "Happy Endings." An acclaimed actress, Ms. Hall shined in such plays as "Raisin In the Sun," "Zooman and the Sign," and "Take a Giant Step."

Ms. Hall's career on the silver screen also began in 1973 after a director saw her at a poetry reading. An accomplished poet, Irma

Hall's reading was so poignant that Raymond St. Jacques cast her in the crime film Book of Numbers. This led to frequent television roles. In 1979, Ms. Hall appeared in "The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders" and its 1980 sequel, Ron Howard's "Skyward." In 1981, she acted opposite Joanne Woodward in "Crisis at Central High."

Throughout the 1990s, Ms. Hall had roles in several well known feature films including "Backdraft," "Straight Talk," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," and "Beloved." Her role in the film "A Family Thing" earned her acclaim and a Chicago Film Critics Association Award. In 1997, Ms. Hall was voted Chicagoan of the Year and also won an Image award for her role in the film "Soul Food."

Ms. Hall continued her television career in the early 2000s with roles in the television series "Soul Food," "A Girl Thing," and "All Souls." In 2004, she received the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for her role as the landlady in the film "The Ladykillers."

In 2007, the UIL Competition was renamed in honor of Ms. Hall as the Irma P. Hall Theater Festival in order to honor her for her work and achievements.

The arts are, above all, about human communication and interaction. I am one who believes that Ms. Irma Hall has achieved the fullest definition of a role model, not only as a woman, an African American, and an artist, but as an ambassador of creativity and goodwill. She has shared the beauty of the arts and the written word with our multicultural community that is Dallas.

Today, Ms. Hall continues her work with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theater, the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts, the African American Museum, the Afro American Artists Alliance, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her membership at the Inspiration Boy of Christ Church.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 2008, the Dallas community will gather at a special dinner to honor and celebrate Irma Hall's career. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an exceptional woman, Irma Hall, for her outstanding service and many contributions to Dallas, and to all who love the magic and vitality of art.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 10th, 2008, I was unable to vote due to a prior commitment in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on roll-call votes 178, 179, 180, 181, and 182.

HONORING ROBERT J. LEENEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable career of Robert J. Leeney, a member of our local media community whose talent

and gift for words has left an indelible mark on the New Haven Register and its readers. After a career that has spanned seven decades, Bob announced his retirement and published his last column Saturday, April 21, 2007—just a month before his 91st birthday. His quick wit and unique perspectives will be missed by colleagues and readers alike. As so aptly put by colleague and current Register editorial page editor Charles Kochakian, Bob Leeney is indeed irreplaceable.

Bob's distinguished career in journalism began as a freelance writer in 1939 and he was soon brought on staff as a reporter, Sunday feature writer, and book critic at the New Haven Register. His only absence from the Register was due to his 2 years of service with the 3rd Air Commando Group, 5th Air Force during World War II. Bob became an editorial writer and served as the editor for the editorial page from 1947 until 1961, becoming executive editor in 1962 and finally editor from 1972–1981. During his tenure as editor, Bob was responsible for the technological modernization of the paper, introducing letters to the editor as well as the creation of the Sunday Arts & Leisure Section—literally changing the face of the New Haven Register. It is fair to say that the New Haven Register will not be the same without him.

After more than 40 years with the paper, Bob did step down as editor; however, some of his most invaluable contributions were still yet to come. His column, "Editor's Note," described as a fusion of literate prose and revealing insights, became a Saturday fixture—a must read for all Register subscribers. In fact, Bob did not miss 1 week writing his column in its 33 year run. "Editor's Note" was more than a weekly column—it chronicled New Haven's history and affairs with the unique perspective of its Irish-American author, creating a unique connection between the readers of the Register and our community's rich history.

Bob's contributions to journalism expand far beyond his work with the Register. He was a charter member of the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists chapter, where he is now honored as a member of the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame. He served as the Commissioner of the Freedom of Information Commission for 5 years and has been recognized with a variety of accolades and awards throughout his career. The Yankee Quill Award for distinguished service to journalism, the Seal of the City Award from the New Haven Colony Historical Society in recognition of his contributions to New Haven's civic life, and the plaque that hangs in the heart of New Haven's Audubon arts district are but a few examples but serve as a reflection of all that this New Haven native has brought to our community.

As a respected journalist, community member, mentor, and friend, Robert J. Leeney has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists to come. I am proud to stand today to recognize his outstanding contributions and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of his good work.

# TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT CHARLES EDWIN EATON

## HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton. On December 26, 2007, Cotton Eaton's family, the community of Athens, Texas and this country lost another hero in America's greatest generation. Born and raised in Navarro County in Texas, Cotton Eaton went on to serve his country proudly in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. In peacetime, Cotton Eaton put his entrepreneurial spirit to work for this country as he owned and operated the Eaton Motor Company in Athens, Texas before retiring in 1988. Cotton Eaton's wit and spirited nature, anchored by a commitment to his family and community, earned him the respect of so many. Despite his own extraordinary contributions, Cotton Eaton always celebrated the gratitude of God's goodness in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this true American hero and offer my condolences to Cotton Eaton's wife of 67 years, Dorothy, their two children, Janice and John, and their grandchildren and great-grand children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Edwin "Cotton" Eaton.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM

## HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader in the labor movement, John W. Cunningham. His passing marks the end of an era at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 210 and the loss of a dear friend to many across Connecticut.

John was a carpenter. He worked hard all of his life and his commitment to the labor movement as well as his membership is unequalled. Joining Local 210 in 1956, just 10 years later he became a business representative and would serve the next 30 years as the General Agent of Carpenters Local Union 210. He was active both locally and nationally—fighting for policies and protections for his membership and working men and women across the country. In addition to his service with Local 210, John also served as the Vice-President of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, President of the Stamford Labor Council, and President of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters. There was no stronger advocate or determined voice than that of John Cunningham.

John was responsible for the creation of the Carpenter's Legislative Improvement Committee which was the first federal political action committee established by a local union—providing a voice for carpenters' issues at the national level. And in the early 1990s John

formed the President's Committee with other union leaders which strengthened the Brotherhood nationally by providing new leadership and making it more responsive to the needs of its members. John was also instrumental in opening the doors of opportunity to women and minorities by implanting outreach programs which brought them into the trade.

John's efforts on behalf of working families extended far beyond his work to shape public policy. During his tenure, he created the Connecticut Carpenters' Health and Pension Fund and established Local 210's Scholarship fund which assisted members' children in pursuing higher education. He launched an apprenticeship and training program and began a program of inviting union members and the public to forums where they would hear from speakers that included Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize authors, economists, and elected leaders. Perhaps most telling of his civic minded nature was his leadership during the National Building Trade Council's efforts to help the families of the 28 construction workers killed at the L'Ambiance construction disaster in 1987.

John understood the importance of serving one's community. He was an active member of the Weston community where he served on a number of boards and commissions, including the School Building Committee, the Town Building Committee, Planning & Zoning, Little League Baseball, and was a founding member of the Weston Booster Club. He was an extraordinary man who dedicated countless hours to making all the difference in the lives of thousands.

I join all of his friends and colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Virginia, his six children; Kimberly, Devon, Bill, John, Caroline, and Diana, as well as his seven grandchildren; Chalan, Maeveren, Conor, Brennen, Makena, Samuel, and Geneva. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of John W. Cunningham. His is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

# RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5724, UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTIONS AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

## HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1092, a rule to suspend fast track procedures for the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). U.S. trade policy should promote democracy based on the protection of fundamental human rights. However, by sending the Colombia FTA to Congress, President Bush has disregarded the rights of workers in Colombia and the needs of working families in the U.S.

Since the 1980s, more than 2,500 workers have been assassinated in Colombia for joining, forming, or leading labor unions. More unionists are killed in Colombia each year than the rest of the world combined. We should not be engaging in free trade policies with a nation whose human rights record is so abysmal.

Our Nation's economy is struggling. The United States lost a record of 80,000 jobs in the month of March alone. The cities in the 32nd Congressional District that I represent have seen unemployment rates soar to more than 7 percent. In this time of economic turmoil, Congress must work to restore the economic security of working- and middle-class Americans.

This rule prioritizes the needs of American workers by removing the timeline for House action on this trade agreement. I strongly support this rule and urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD M. SMITH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNION  
LABOR LIFE INSURANCE COM-  
PANY

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Edward M. Smith, as he accepts his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, ULLICO, and retires as Vice President, Assistant to the General President, and Midwest Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America, LIUNA.

Ed Smith was born into a union family. His father was the business manager of Local 773, and would continue in that position until his retirement. His mother was also a 15-year member of the union. So it seemed natural that, at the age of 13, Ed Smith would join Laborers' Local 773, in Cairo, Illinois, and work his way through school as a construction craft laborer.

At the age of 21, when many young men are yet to chart their career course, Ed was elected as business manager of the local union. While serving as business manager, Ed continued to expand his role within the Laborers' Union. In 1981, he was appointed International Representative for the International Union and was later appointed LIUNA legislative director for the State of Illinois. Ed was elected President of the Southern Illinois Laborers' District Council in 1986 and Business Manager in 1990.

Ed has served on a number of Union entities, including the Laborers' National Pension Fund, as Chairman of the Central Laborers' Pension Fund, Laborers' Home Development Corporation, Laborers' International Federal Employees Credit Union, Southern Illinois Laborers' Fringe Benefit Funds, Railroad Maintenance Health & Welfare Fund, and the Illinois Laborers' & Contractors Joint Apprenticeship & Training Fund.

Ed does not limit his involvement to the Laborers' Union. He was Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Investment, serves as a member of the Illinois Department of Labor Advisory Board, the Democratic National Committee, and is chairman of the National Alliance for Fair Contracting. Ed has also been a major benefactor to the Therapy Center in Carterville, Illinois, an organization that assists physically disabled children, and he serves as a board member of the "I Can Read Program" which helps children with reading and learning disabilities.

Ed graduated from Shawnee College with an Associate of Arts degree and, in 1992, he received Shawnee College's first Outstanding Alumni Award. Ed was the first member of the Laborers' International Union to graduate from the National Labor College with a bachelor's degree and, in 1978, he graduated from the Harvard University Trade Union Program.

Ed and his wife, Betty, reside in Olive Branch, Illinois. Ed has two children, a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Matt.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Edward M. Smith, a true champion of organized labor, and to wish him our best as he embarks on his new position as President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

HONORING EDWARD H. LEWIS AS  
HE IS HONORED BY THE GREAT-  
ER NEW HAVEN NAACP

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Greater New Haven NAACP and the New Haven community in extending my sincere congratulations to my dear friend, Edward H. Lewis, as he is honored at this year's Freedom Fund Awards dinner with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Freedom Fund Awards dinner is a time not only to honor those who have made an impact on our community, but to renew our commitment to those ideals upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded. For nearly nine decades, the Greater New Haven NAACP has been the voice of our African-American community and has improved countless lives. Their fight for justice has been tireless, and their efforts have gone a long way toward making sure that everyone will enjoy equal opportunity. Those honored with the annual Freedom Fund Awards are a reflection of this organization's good work—of the NAACP's commitment to ensuring a promising future for our families, our children, and our communities.

Edward H. Lewis, known to family and friends as "Teo," is a native of my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut and we could not be more proud of all that he has accomplished. I have been fortunate to know him for many years and consider myself blessed to call him my friend. We worked as community organizers together at the Community Action Institute and later, served together in the National Urban Fellow Program. Teo went to Washington as a legislative assistant to then Senator Henry Jackson and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Small Business Administration as Associate Administrator for Procurement. After leaving Washington, he brought his wealth of government experience to the emerging cable industry. He has worked in several capacities but is perhaps best known for his work with BET networks where his work in marketing and event promotion for both BET and BET on Jazz redefined the title of Director of Marketing. Today, Teo is Vice President of Government Relations for the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats

where he is utilizing his multitude of talents to develop both local and state government relationships as well as build a positive relationship with the business community. He is a remarkable individual whose professional life has always enriched the surrounding community.

In addition to his innumerable professional contributions, Teo has also devoted countless hours to a number of civic and social organizations. He currently serves on the board of the Freedom Theater in Philadelphia, the advisory committee for the International Association of Jazz Educators, on the Board of Trustees at Discovery Place Charlotte North Carolina, as well as on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte, WTVI Public Television, and the Bobby Phills Foundation. He is also a member of the Charlotte Rotary, 100 Black Men of Charlotte, the Business Committee on Higher Education for the Institute for Emerging Issues and the advisory board for the Mint Museum and the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. There are few like Teo who give so much of themselves back to their communities—he is a community treasure.

To be awarded with the Greater NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award is a reflection of all that Teo has accomplished as a community member, advocate, professional, volunteer, mentor and friend. For his many invaluable contributions to the community and to those ideals at the very heart of the NAACP, I am proud to join his children Todd, Kimberly, Derek, and Barry, as well as all of those gathered this evening in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to Edward H. Lewis as he is bestowed with this very special honor by the Greater New Haven NAACP. His is a legacy that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD my position on the following votes I missed on April 8 and 9, 2008.

On Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to a family illness and thus missed rollcall vote Nos. 161 through 172. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 161, on H.J. Res. 70, a resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 162, on H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 163, on S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote Nos. 164 and 165, which were procedural votes that provided for consideration of the bill H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 166, on H. Res. 1077, which called on the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to end its crackdown in

Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have proudly voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 167, on the Grijalva Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 168, on the Bishop (UT) (#3) Amendment number 3 to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 169, on the Bishop (UT) (#4) Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 170, on the Bishop (UT) (#5) Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 171, on the Altmire/Carney Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 172, on the Pearce Amendment to H.R. 2016, The National Landscape Conservation System Act, I would have voted "nay."

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRAIRIE CENTER HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Prairie Center Health Systems, Inc. (Prairie Center) in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. The Prairie Center has provided affordable, effective drug and alcohol education and treatment to the communities of Illinois since 1968.

The Prairie Center originated in 1968 with three grassroots organizations: the Mustard Seed Club, the Champaign County Council on Alcoholism and the Gemini House. Today, the Prairie Center is responsive to the needs of Ford and Vermilion County as well as the 7,000 annual residents in need of substance abuse services.

The Prairie Center provides a variety of substance abuse services. These services include school-based prevention education, community education, early intervention counseling, outpatient care, DUI services, adult inpatient care and detoxification care. Regardless of the service the Prairie Center follows their vision to help people improve their lives.

Today the Prairie Center has expanded to three locations and provides numerous outreach services throughout Central Illinois. On behalf of the people who have benefited from these services, I thank the Prairie Center for their work and look forward to their next 40 years.

I hope all of you will join me in recognizing the services provided by the Prairie Center that restore the lives, families and communities of Illinois.

#### THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the bloody crackdown on innocent, peaceful protesters by Burma's brutal regime last fall shocked the world. Over 30 people were killed, hundreds were injured, and as many as 1,000 people arrested during and after the protests. It was startling even by the standards by which we have come to judge this military regime.

Last week the Congressional Human Rights Caucus welcomed three courageous witnesses to this travesty, U Kovida, U Gawsita, and U Pannayasiri, Burmese Buddhist monks who were beaten and abused by this regime, but have become advocates for their people. I would like to submit their testimonies for the record.

After the initial outrage over the government's actions last fall, I'm afraid that many people moved on, and the plight of the Burmese people has passed again from public consciousness. This is why it was so important for us to hear these distinguished witnesses, peaceful and courageous men who stood up for their people in the face of this violent suppression. By giving them an opportunity to describe what they went through—and what their countrymen and women continue to go through—we can help refocus attention on Burma.

In February, the regime announced that it would hold a national referendum on a new constitution in May 2008. They said that if the constitution were approved, they would hold a "multi-party election" in 2010. I, for one, however, have no faith in pronouncements from these thugs that they are ready to end military rule; the closed process of drafting the constitution and the extensive ongoing military role in the proposed system are obvious problems. And, of course, the exclusion of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi—still locked up under house arrest—is completely unacceptable.

Meanwhile, we search for ways to compel this regime to respect human rights. We in Congress have addressed the issue many times since the 1988 massacres. I have chaired multiple hearings on human rights abuses in Burma and we have addressed the situation through legislation aimed at the regime. Just this fall, I was honored to co-sponsor legislation authored by that great friend of Burma, Chairman TOM LANTOS. The Block Burmese JADE act would level new restrictions on the military government.

But the emboldened dictators continue their course of abuse—extra-judicial killings, torture, rape, forced labor, and of course, tight control over speech, the press and assembly.

They are supported by patrons in Beijing, who are happily preparing for the Olympics as they bankroll these thugs to the tune of \$2 to \$3 billion in military aid since the early 1990s, \$200 million of economic aid annually, and billions of dollars in investment and trade.

Congress has discussed the role of the Chinese in Darfur, and recently Madam Speaker, I co-sponsored your timely resolution calling upon the Chinese to end their violent crack-

down in Tibet. However, we cannot forget the Chinese role in supporting repression in Burma.

When the world watches the Olympic games from China, I hope at least some of the viewers think of the Burmese political prisoners—perhaps 1,800 of them—suffering in the prisons that the Chinese support. They are enduring what one former prisoner has called the closest thing to hell on earth that he could imagine.

TESTIMONY OF U KOVIDA BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, APRIL 10, 2008

Honorable Congressmen, staff members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like, first of all, to offer my sincere THANKS to all of you who have given me a chance to share what I have experienced and those who are here to listen and pay attention to what I have to say. Secondly, I would like to thank the President of the United States and the American people for giving me this opportunity to explain the predicament and dire situation the people are facing in Burma on behalf of our leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the oppressed Burmese.

I am, as you all know, one of the participants during the so-called "Saffron-Revolution" in September 2007. Burma is infamous for its violation of Basic Human Rights, disrespect to the freedom of religion, one of the least developed and poorest countries in the world with the lowest living standard where the civil war has been going on for the past 50 years.

These are the reasons why we, people of Burma, have wanted a change in the government system. We have wanted to have a higher live standard, and live in a better and developed country. The people in Burma have struggled and fought for change since 1962. We have struggled and fought to achieve such change throughout the history and the demonstrations and protests in 1962, 1974, 1988, 1996, 2003, and 2007 are significant. But all of our voices, pleas and struggles were answered by the brutality of the military government which used weapons, brutal suppressions, torture, and imprisonments.

The international community witnessed the brutal suppression of monks who demonstrated peacefully in September 2007. But there have been many incidents of oppressions, violation and torture that have been going on inside Burma without anyone knowing for many decades.

What I would like to point out here in the harmless and helpless Burmese have very high hope and are depending on the assistance and intervention from the United Nations and the international community in the past 20 years. Sadly and unfortunately, there hasn't been any positive effect on the people of Burma. There were so many decisions by the United Nations. There were many U.N. representatives who have visited Burma, but the future looks bleak. We were greatly discouraged by the fact that the Security Council merely suggested the military which was killing its own people and monks, to engage in talks. What I am saying to you now is exactly what the people of Burma would like to speak out.

Ladies and gentlemen, the people of Burma are not only suffering from extreme poverty, hardship, substandard in health care, education and social services but also facing oppression by the military government on a daily basis. When monks in Burma understood, realized, and felt the hardship the people had to go through, we decided to protest peacefully on behalf of the people. And everyone knows how we were dealt with. We appreciate that you are trying to oppose the constitution drafted by the military and its

hand picked representatives. We strongly support your effort at the UN to reject any referendum and constitutions without the participation of all people concerned.

Right now the military government is planning to have a constitutional referendum in May. In many areas in Burma, people are illegally forced as well as offered financial incentives to vote. In other areas, people are threatened. Some of the activists were brutally beaten up by unknown assailants very recently. The closer the May referendum is, the more scared and concerned the people are about their safety and security. Securities have been tightened inside Rangoon. Police and security forces are deployed on the main streets of Rangoon.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to emphasize the fact that we need help and assistance in order to change the government system in Burma. We cannot accept the constitutional referendum and planned general election in 2010 organized by the military government which totally ignored the results of people's voices in 1990 general election, and whose sole aim is to prolong and ensure the military influence in Burma politics for many more years to come. We strongly urge you to reject any effort by the military government to legitimize itself.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again the international community, governments and administrations, respected congressmen as well as the people who love democracy and who are supporting our course. I thank the Refugee International to facilitate my appearance here at the Congress.

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS BRIEFING ON BURMA, APRIL 10, 2008, TESTIMONY OF U GAWSITA

Honorable Congressmen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for here today and allowing me to speak.

My name is U Gawsita, a Buddhist Monk from Burma. Until before I left from Burma, I was at the Maggin Monastery, in Thingan Gyun Township in Rangoon, studying Buddha's teaching of Dharma and working social assistance works. The Maggin Monastery was not only a religious center, but also a sanctuary for orphans and HIV/AIDS infected persons, who were ignored by the military government. Our monastery was also a gathering place of democracy activists and human rights defenders, and therefore, it was constantly watched by the junta.

On September 5, 2007, Buddhist monks in Pakkoku Township in Upper Burma, who marched in the streets peacefully with reciting the Metta Sutra, Buddhist teaching of Loving-Kindness, were severely attacked, arrested and tortured by the authorities. As we couldn't tolerate such an insult to the monks, who are highly respected by the people of Burma, and to respond the injustices done by the junta, Buddhist monks all over the country founded a coalition called the "All Burma Monks' Alliance (ABMA)" on September 9, under the leadership of six leading monks. I was a founding member of the ABMA since its inception. The ABMA issued an ultimatum to the military junta, calling it to apologize to the monks, whom they have insulted in Pakkoku, no later than September 17. ABMA also claimed that if they do not, ABMA would start an ex-communicative boycott, which we called in Pali, Patta Nikuzana Kan, against the Burmese military junta and their family members. The Patta Nikuzana Kan is a strong action of monks against those who have insulted or attacked the members of religious order. Since the day this action is effective, monks refuse to accept food offer and donation from those who attacked and insulted the Bud-

dism and Buddhist monks, and refuse to perform religious blessing on them. I and my fellow monks made copies of this ABMA statement and distributed among the public secretly.

As the authorities refused to apologize to the monks, and they even accused that these monks in Pakkoku were bogus ones, the ABMA instructed all monks in the country on September 18 to begin an ex-communicative boycott against the junta. As instructed, I organized other monks and to take a vow to participate in the ex-communicative boycott at an ordination center inside the compound of Kyaikkasan Pagoda on September 18, 2007.

As we all, over 70 monks, gathered, over 150 security forces, police and intelligence officials came to us and threatened to disperse. We then left from that place, moved to another Pagoda, called Kyauk Sardaw, and took a vow together. Then, as we have planned before; we all marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon while reciting the Metta Sutra. It was the beginning of the peaceful protests led by Buddhist monks in Burma that shocked not only the country, but also the world. Since September 18, monks in various parts of the country gathered at one particular place, marched in the streets towards a prominent Pagoda in the town, with reciting Metta Sutra, daily. In Rangoon, we gathered at the Shwedagon Pagoda and then peacefully marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon while reciting Metta Sutra. People from all walks of life welcomed and helped us wholeheartedly and since September 24, they also joined with monks in the march in hundreds of thousands.

From September 26, the military junta began to crack down on the peaceful march by use of violence. Security forces threw tear gas canisters at the crowd, beat the protesters with rubber sticks and shot them with automatic rifles. Under the excessive use of violence by the junta, nearly 200 monks and lay people were killed and over 7,000 were arrested nationwide. I was also beaten on my head. We continued the peaceful march on September 27 and security forces brutally attacked the protesters at least three places in Rangoon, in front of the Sule Pagoda, in the Wayzayanda Street in South Okkalapa Township and in front of State High School No. 3 in Tamwe. Security forces raided about 60 monasteries and arrested over 2,000 monks. Monks were forced to disrobe in interrogation centers and severely tortured. At least 20 more monks were killed during the interrogation.

Maggin monastery was raided twice, on the nights of September 26 and October 3, by the security forces and almost all of monks and civilian assistants were arrested. I was hiding in some place, and therefore, escaped from the arrest. On November 29, the authorities forcibly shut down the Maggin monastery and forced the 80-year-old senior monk Ashin Nandiya, some novices and HIV/AIDS patients to leave the monastery. I hid in many places before I reached to Thai-Burma border on December 5, 2007. As assisted by the U.S. Government and Congress, I was permitted to resettle in the U.S. and arrived here on March 11, 2008.

I am now at a safe and secure place. However, my fellow monks and the people of Burma are still suffering a lot under the oppressive rule of the brutal military junta. Therefore, I would like to urge the United States to lead an initiative to have an effective action from the U.N. Security Council.

I heard that late Congressman Tom Lantos and Senators Joseph Biden and Mitch McConnell have introduced two legislations, banning importation of jades and precious stones from Burma, imposing more targeted

financial and banking sanctions against the Burmese generals, family members and crony businesspersons. It has been more than six months since the bloody crackdown on my fellow citizens in Burma by the brutal military junta. But, final decisions on these legislations have not been reached yet. Therefore, I would like to urge members of Congress to adopt these legislations as soon as possible.

In coming May, the military junta will forcibly approve its constitution, designed to legalize the military dictatorship, though the referendum. I would like to urge the U.S. and international governments to not recognize this sham constitution. I know that Congressmen Holt, Berman and Ros-Lehtinen have introduced legislation, calling for the United States to not recognize the junta's constitution. I also want to urge the Congress to adopt this resolution as soon as possible.

Thank you.

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS BRIEFING ON BURMA, APRIL 10, 2008, TESTIMONY OF U PANNYAR THI RI

Honorable Congressmen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank all of you for here today.

My name is U Pannayar Thi Ri, a Burmese Buddhist monk from Zay Ta Wun Monastery in Tha Ke Ta Township in Rangoon.

When the Burmese military junta has suddenly increased gas and fuel prices in August 2007, and subsequently the people of Burma began to stage peaceful walks in the streets, I was studying Buddhist teaching of Dharma at a Monastery in Thar Ke Ta Township in Rangoon. I have witnessed the brutal crackdown by the military junta against the peaceful protesters led by the 88 Generation Students. I also learned that my fellow monks in Pakkoku Township in Upper Burma were beaten and arrested by the authorities on September 5, while they were walking in streets, reciting Metta Sutra (Loving-Kindness) to help the suffering of the people of Burma. As I can't tolerate these injustices, I joined with my fellow monks in Rangoon in the peaceful walks, by reciting the Metta Sutra, since September 22, 2007.

I would like to tell you one of my own experiences which happened on September 26. When I was at nearby the Shwedagon Pagoda together with my fellow monks that day, hundreds of security forces came in, surrounded us and blocked the streets. Then they threw tear gas canisters at us. When we were demobilizing under the smoke and dark, they attacked us with rubber sticks. Then they also burned a motorcycle and claimed that it was burned by monks. We dispersed for a moment under the attack, but later remobilize again and marched towards the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon, where we intended to meet with other monks. Many monks were injured and bloodstained, but they kept their peace constantly and citing the Metta sutra continuously.

On September 27, even under the attack and blockade by the security forces, I and five other monks led a peaceful protest, with the participation of nearly 100,000 people, which ended at the Sule Pagoda. While marching in the street, Japanese reporter Kanji Nagai was along with us, taking pictures of the protest. When we reached an overpass nearby the Sule Pagoda, security forces arrived with three army trucks and shot in the air and among the crowd with their automatic rifles.

In front of my eyes, Japanese reporter Nagai and another protester were fatally shot and a monk was shot in his arm. The



marching crowd was dispersed under the flying bullets and I had to hide in a restaurant. And the wife of the restaurant owner sent me back to the monastery in Tha Ke Ta at 7 p.m. with her car. At that night, security forces came in with five army trucks and tried to raid the monasteries in Tha Ke Ta. As alarmed by the monks, hundreds of people from the neighborhood came in time to intervene the attempts of security forces, and therefore they left without success. And again, on September 29, at 1 a.m., security forces came to raid the monasteries with 10 army trucks. Local residents gathered quickly and defended the monasteries from the raid of the soldiers, and therefore, they withdrew. However, a civilian was shot to death and his body was stolen by the security forces.

Therefore, I fled to Taung Twin Gyi Township on September 30 to hide. When I came back to Rangoon stealthily on October 8, I met with a monk, who is friend of mine, was arrested on September 27 and then released. He told me that he was forced to disrobe in prison and beaten throughout interrogation. The interrogators show him photos of monks leading the protest and asked him to expose who they are. He saw my photo among them. And that's why, he suggested me to run away and hide. Therefore, I left Rangoon immediately and then led a secret journey to Thai-Burma border, where I reached on November 7, 2007. Then, as assisted by the United States Government and Congress, I arrived to the United States on March 11, 2008, as a refugee.

The objectives of the peaceful protests in Burma, led by Buddhist monks, students and people are for releasing of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and realizing of a meaningful and time-bound dialogue between the military junta and democratic forces for mutually acceptable political changes. As long as the military junta continues to listen to the voices of the people of Burma and oppress the people by using violence, peaceful protests by monks and the people will continue. The only way to stop the violence of the military junta is an effective and decisive action from the U.N. Security Council. Therefore, I would like to request the United States Government to try to get the effective resolution from the UNSC by organizing the members

of the UNSC, especially China and Russia, to help the people of Burma.

Thank you.

### HONORING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 14, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven community in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Christian Community Action. For four decades this outstanding agency has been providing invaluable services to those most in need and I am proud to wish them the very best as they mark this important milestone.

The story of Christian Community Action begins with a home on Congress Avenue destroyed by fire and a group of ecumenical Catholics and Protestants looking for a way to help. Since that time, Christian Community Action has grown and evolved into a well-respected resource for individuals and families in need as well as a vocal advocate for the impoverished, working to change the systems which perpetuate poverty and injustice. Through the extraordinary vision and commitment of its leadership, Christian Community Action has made all the difference in the lives of many.

Reverend David Nehring became the first director of Christian Community Action in 1967 and it was under his direction that the organization's mission was developed and their first emergency food program was started. Just 3 years later, Reverend Nehring supervised the agency's move to its current home at 168 Davenport Avenue, adding five apartments which were used to provide emergency shelter. It was under the direction of the center's second director, Reverend Phil Grigsby, that the agency became involved in the develop-

ment of the New Haven Fuel Bank and that the adjacent property at 166 Davenport Avenue was purchased providing three additional apartments. Reverend Karl Hilgert became the agency's third director in 1981. It was through his vision that Christian Community Action opened the Sylvan Avenue Shelter site adding another ten emergency apartments and that the agency began increasing its social service and case management programs for the residents of its emergency housing.

In 1988, Christian Community Action's fourth and current director, Reverend Bonita Grubbs, took the helm and it has been under her nearly 20 years of outstanding leadership that the agency has substantially grown. Today, Christian Community Action not only provides emergency food, housing and support for those facing unexpected crisis such as fires and evictions, but is now actively involved in helping families to attain self-sufficiency through a myriad of innovative initiatives. The Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program, Health Advocacy Voices Emerging Network, Mothers for Justice, and the Program for Internships, Vocational Opportunities and Training program are just a few examples of how Christian Community Action is identifying needs within our community and working to actively address those issues impacting the poor and those who often cannot find a voice.

For the last 40 years, Christian Community Action has been a beacon of hope for those most in need. Through their advocacy and social services, this organization has touched the lives of thousands throughout Greater New Haven and across Connecticut. I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all of those, past and present, whose involvement with Christian Community Action and commitment to its mission has made this organization such a success. It is difficult to imagine what our community would be like without that compassion and generosity. Happy 40th anniversary and my very best wishes for many more years of continued success.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## APRIL 16

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense medical programs.

SD-192

9:45 a.m.

Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Education, focusing on teacher quality.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on proposals to mitigate foreclosures and restore liquidity to the mortgage markets.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation and the global economy.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-124

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine violence and exploitation in the 21st century, focusing on solutions for protecting our children.

SD-226

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine affordable housing opportunities, focusing on reforming the housing voucher program.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert J. Callahan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua; Heather M. Hodges, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica; Barbara J. Stephenson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama; Peter E. Cianchette, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica; Hugo Llorens, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras; Stephen George McFarland, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State; and Samuel W. Speck, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

SD-419

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 on military beneficiary organizations regarding the quality of life of Active, Reserve, and retired military personnel and their members, and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the credit market on small businesses.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Internal Revenue Service.

SD-192

Aging

To hold hearings to examine caring for the elderly, focusing on how to support those on the front line.

SD-562

## APRIL 17

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Gustafson, of Virginia, Richard T. Morrison, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 2533, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 702, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs, and the nominations of Michael G. McGinn, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, and Ralph E. Martinez, of Florida, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims

Settlement Commission of the United States, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Military Construction.

SD-124

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety and modernization performance.

SD-138

10:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine fusion centers, focusing on a recent progress report.

SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure.

SD-366

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Armenia and the United States, focusing on Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia's qualifications for assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account.

B-318, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

## APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Internet.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, focusing on a recent report on moving passengers and freight into the future.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 934 and H.R. 1374, bills to amend the Florida National Forest Land Management Act of 2003 to authorize the conveyance of an additional tract of National Forest System land under that Act, S. 2833, to provide for the management of certain public land in Owyhee County, Idaho, and S. 2834, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, and improve public land in Washington County, Utah.

SD-366

## APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine an update on the Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration.

SR-418

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine National Security Letters, focusing on the need for greater accountability and oversight.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine phantom traffic.

SR-253

## APRIL 24

10:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2688, to improve the protections afforded under Federal law to consumers from contaminated seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies, to strengthen activities for ensuring that seafood sold or offered for sale to the public in or affecting interstate commerce is fit for human consumption, S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to broadcast media ownership, S. 2607, to make a technical correction to section 3009 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, H.R. 3985, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, H.R. 802, to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution

from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI, and the nomination of Robert A. Sturgell, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

SR-253

2:15 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2680, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior to take certain actions to address environmental problems associated with the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in the State of Colorado, S. 2805, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to assess the irrigation infrastructure of the Rio Grande Pueblos in the State of New Mexico and provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the Rio Grande Pueblos to repair, rehabilitate, or reconstruct existing infrastructure, S. 2814, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, H.R. 29, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, H.R. 1803, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and H.R. 123, to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national nanotechnology, focusing on charting the course for reauthorization.

SR-253

## APRIL 29

10:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving consumer protection in subprime home lending.

SR-253

## APRIL 30

10 a.m.

## Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine electronic voting systems, focusing on top-to-bottom inquiries by Secretaries of State.

SR-301

## MAY 1

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine military build-up on Guam, focusing on the impact on civilian community, planning, and response.

SD-366

## MAY 7

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits legislation.

SR-418

## MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health care legislation.

SR-418

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2955–S2984*

**Measures Introduced:** Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2850–2854, S. Res. 513, and S. Con. Res. 76. **Page S2977**

**Measures Passed:**

***Purple Heart Family Equity Act:*** Senate passed H.R. 1119, to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S2981**

***Celebrating Army Reserve Centennial:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 513, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States. **Pages S2981–82**

***Celebrating Army Reserve Centennial:*** Senate passed H.J. Res. 70, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S2982**

***Conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan:*** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 470, calling on the relevant governments, multilateral bodies, and non-state actors in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan to devote ample political commitment and material resources towards the achievement and implementation of a negotiated resolution to the national and regional conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2982–83**

***Technical Corrections:*** Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 76, to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858. **Page S2983**

**Measures Considered:**

***Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users:*** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections. **Pages S2961–72**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 93 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 103), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2971**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, and that all time during any morning business, recess, or adjournment of the Senate count against cloture. **Page S2984**

***Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments—Agreement:*** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3352, to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and that the bill be placed on the Senate calendar. **Page S2981**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S2973–74**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S2974**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S2976–77**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2974–76**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S2977–80**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S2973**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S2980–81**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:** **Page S2981**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—103) **Page S2971**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:12 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2984.)

## *Committee Meetings*

No committee meetings were held.

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# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 7 public bills, H.R. 5781–5787; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 1104–1106, were introduced. **Pages H2265–66**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H2266–67**

**Reports Filed:** A report was filed on April 10, 2008 as follows:

H.R. 3548, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–580). Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 281, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–581);

H.R. 5036, to direct the Administrator of General Services to reimburse certain jurisdictions for the costs of obtaining paper ballot voting systems for the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008 and to reimburse jurisdictions for the costs incurred in conducting audits or hand counting of the results of the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–582, Pt. 1);

H.R. 5715, to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families (H. Rept. 110–583);

H.R. 5719, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–584);

Supplemental report on H.R. 5719, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers (H. Rept. 110–584, Pt. 2);

H. Res. 1102, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers (H. Rept. 110–585);

H. Res. 1103, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries (H. Rept. 110–586);

H. Res. 1068, permitting active duty members of the Armed Forces who are assigned to a Congressional liaison office of the Department of Defense at the House of Representatives to obtain membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–587);

H.R. 5493, to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration (H. Rept. 110–588); and

H.R. 5570, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the sunset in the special immigrant nonminister religious worker visa program, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–589).

**Page H2265**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2227**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2227**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Joseph T. Holcomb, Director of Pilgrimages, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. **Page H2227**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Wynn, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, effective 5 p.m. on April 9, 2008. **Page H2228**

**Official Objectors for the 110th Congress:** On behalf of the Majority and Minority leadership, the

Chair announced the following Official Objectors for the Private Calendar for the 110th Congress: Representatives Boucher, Schiff and Grijalva for the Majority and Representatives King (IA), Forbes and Smith (TX) for the Minority. **Page H2228**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado:* H. Res. 886, amended, to express sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-a-and-nay vote of 380 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 183; **Pages H2228–30, H2244**

*Expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day:* H. Res. 994, amended, to express support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-a-and-nay vote of 377 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 184; **Pages H2230–31, H2244–45**

*Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2007:* H.R. 4881, amended, to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts; **Pages H2234–37**

*Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007:* H.R. 3548, amended, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-a-and-nay vote of 376 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 185; and **Pages H2237–39, H2245**

*Honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns:* H. Res. 259, to honor and recognize the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns. **Pages H2239–41**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2243**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed until Tuesday, April 15th:

*Texas Military Veterans Post Office Designation Act:* H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office" and **Pages H2231–34**

*Expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month:* H. Res. 1097, amended, to express support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security. **Pages H2241–43**

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages H2228 and H2246.

**Senate Referrals:** S. Con. Res. 76 was held at the desk.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2244, H2244–45, and H2245. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AND NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. Testimony was heard from Scott Large, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; and VADM Robert Merrett, USN, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

### TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by a vote of 7 to 3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5719, the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008." The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that



the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended. This waiver does not affect the point of order available under clause 9 of rule XXI (regarding earmark disclosure). The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration until a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representatives Lewis of Georgia, Brady of Texas and Sessions.

#### JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2007

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2634, the “Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007.” The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except for clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank and Representative Bachus.

## Joint Meetings

### FARM BILL EXTENSION ACT

*Conferees* met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10 a.m., SD-192.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on the impact on the cost and availability of student loans, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 570 and H.R. 1011, bills to designate additional National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia as wilderness or a wilderness study area, to designate the Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, to establish the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, to provide for the development of trail plans for the wilderness areas and scenic areas, S. 758 and H.R. 1311, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, S. 1680, to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, S. 2109, to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, S. 2124, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, and S. 2581, to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality, to hold hearings to examine pharmaceuticals in the nation's water, focusing on assessing potential risks and actions to address this issue, 3 p.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on fundamentals for advancement, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (the "Geneva Protocol III"), adopted at Geneva on December 8, 2005, and signed by the United States on that date; the Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (the "CCW Amendment"); and the CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (the "CCW Protocol V") (Treaty Doc. 109-10), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Convention) and, for accession, The Hague Protocol, concluded on May 14, 1954, and entered into force on August 7, 1956 with accompanying report from the Department of State (Treaty Doc. 106-01), and protocols to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II or the Amended Mines Protocol); the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III or the Incendiary Weapons Protocol); and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) (Treaty Doc. 105-01), 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine ending abuses and improving working conditions for tomato workers, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine nuclear terrorism, focusing on confronting the challenges of the day after, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Full Committee, to continue hearings to examine the 2010 Decennial Census, focusing on automation and information technology in order to improve census coverage, accuracy, and efficiency, 3:15 p.m., SD-342.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

## House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, executive, on CIA, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on IRS, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Capitol Visitor Center, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies, on SOUTHCOM, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

*Committee on Armed Services,* on Building Partnership Capacity and Development of the Interagency, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on oversight of the Defense Travel System, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission—the 7-MHz Auction, 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* hearing entitled "Financial Literacy and Education: The Effectiveness of Governmental and Private Sector Initiatives," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing on H.R. 5579, Emergency Mortgage Loan Modification Act of 2008, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Moving Beyond the First Five Years: How the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Will Continue to Enhance Security for All Modes of Transportation," 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration,* hearing on Military and Overseas Voting: Problems and Progress in Ensuring the Vote, 11 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing on H.R. 3189, National Security Letters Reform Act of 2007, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources joint oversight hearing on the West-wide Energy Corridor Process: State and Community Impacts, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, to mark up the following: the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008; and H.R. 3774, Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act; followed by a oversight hearing on D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA), 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on New Contracting and Property Bills, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Rules,* to consider H.R. 5719, Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008, 1:30 p.m., H-313 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science and Technology,* Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on the Department of Energy's FutureGen Program, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Fiscal Year Budget: Federal Maritime Commission, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 5730, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to display in each prosthetic clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs an Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights; H.R. 2818, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Epilepsy Centers of Excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 5554, Veterans' Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008; H.R. 5622, Veterans' Timely Access to Health Care Act; H.R. 5595, Make Our Veterans Smile Act of 2008; and H.R. 5729, To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive health care to chil-

dren of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the Instability of Health Coverage in America, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, executive, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget-MIP, 1 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

### Joint Meetings

*Conference*: meeting of conferees on H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, Time to be announced, SR-325.

## Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1195, Highway Technical Corrections.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

## Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 4056—The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008; (2) H. Res. 1053—National Crime Victims' Rights Week Act of 2007; (3) H. Res. 1095—Commemorating the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act; (4) H.R. 5570—Religious Worker Visa Extension Act of 2008; (5) H.R. 5036—Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008; (6) H.R. 5493—To provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration; and (7) H. Res. 1068—To permit membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives and in the House Staff Fitness Program to be made available to other Federal employees who are assigned to official duty at the House of Representatives. Consideration of H.R. 2634—Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (Subject to a Rule).

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